



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

RAINBOW CONNECTION

More rain, snow expected in already soaked California

A double rainbow arcs over a palm tree in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019. In California, rainwater continued to drain from saturated landscapes even as a new system moved into northern areas of the state and more heavy snow fell in the Sierra Nevada.

Associated Press
Page 3

ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

WIN!

A SUPER CAR

THE CASINO AT THE RITZ-CARLTON

ASK!

VIP DESK AT 527-2276/77



RENAISSANCE MALL, WHERE
Style & Sophistication

ARE ALWAYS IN VOGUE

LOUIS VUITTON | GUCCI | DOLCE & GABBANA
ROLEX | PRADA | CARTIER | MICHAEL KORS
CAROLINA HERRERA | KATE SPADE | RALPH LAUREN

Open Mondays through Saturdays 10am - 7pm
L.G. Smith Blvd 82, Oranjestad

RenaissanceMallandMarketplace | renaissancemallaruba

R
RENAISSANCE
MALL

Trump tests presidential power, declares emergency at border

By JONATHAN LEMIRE,
COLLEEN LONG and ALAN
FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defiant in the wake of a stinging budget defeat, President Donald Trump on Friday declared a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border, moving to secure more money for his long-promised wall by exercising a broad interpretation of his presidential powers that is certain to draw stiff legal challenges.

In his emergency proclamation, Trump painted a dark picture of the border as "a major entry point for criminals, gang members, and illicit narcotics" and one that threatens "core national security interests." Overall, though, illegal border crossings are down from a high of 1.6 million in 2000.

His declaration instantly transformed a contentious policy fight into a foundational dispute over the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution, spurring talk of a congressional vote to block Trump



President Donald Trump walks out to begin speaking at an event in the Rose Garden at the White House to declare a national emergency in order to build a wall along the southern border, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019 in Washington.

Associated Press

and ensuring that the president and Democrats will continue fighting over the border wall in Congress, the courts and on the campaign trail. It triggered outrage from Democrats, unease among some Republicans and

flew in the face of years of GOP complaints that President Barack Obama had over-reached in his use of executive authority.

Trump signed the declaration to justify diverting billions of federal dollars from military construction and other purposes after Congress approved only a fraction of the money he had demanded. The standoff over border funding had led to the longest government shutdown in history. To avoid another shutdown, Trump reluctantly signed a funding bill Friday that included just \$1.4 billion of the \$5.7 billion he had demanded for the wall.

Trump announced the declaration in a free-wheeling, 50-minute Rose Garden news conference that included a long preamble about his administration's accomplishments. He jostled with reporters and delivered a sing-song prediction about the fate of the order as it winds its way through the legal system before potentially ending up at the Supreme Court.

"Sadly, we'll be sued and sadly it will go through a process and happily we'll win, I think," said Trump.

Within hours of Trump's statement, the American Civil Liberties Union announced it would file suit

challenging his emergency powers declaration.

"By the president's very own admission in the Rose Garden, there is no national emergency. He just grew impatient and frustrated with Congress, and decided to move along his promise for a border wall 'faster,'" said ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero. Some Democratic state attorneys general have also threatened to go to court over the decision.

The text of Trump's proclamation cited an increase in families coming across the border and an inability to detain families during deportation proceedings — not drugs or violence as the president outlined in his press conference. The top two Democrats in Congress said they'd use "every remedy available" to oppose what they cast as an unlawful measure.

"The President's actions clearly violate the Congress's exclusive power of the purse, which our Founders enshrined in the Constitution," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said in a joint statement. Trump defended his use of an emergency declaration, saying other presidents had done the same. Other presidents have used

emergency powers, but not to pay for projects that Congress wouldn't support. And Trump himself sent mixed messages as to its necessity. He wrote in the official proclamation that "Because of the gravity of the current emergency situation, it is necessary for the Armed Forces to provide additional support to address the crisis."

But he seemed to tip his hand at a political motive when he said during the news conference, "I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather do it much faster," an admission certain to be cited during legal challenges. Republicans had opposed Trump declaring a national emergency, repeatedly warning that it would set a bad precedent and divide the party when Democrats put it up for a vote. While many in the GOP on Friday fell in line behind Trump's decision, others remain opposed.

"I don't believe a national emergency declaration is the solution," Sen Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said in a statement. "It wouldn't provide enough funding to adequately secure our borders, it would likely get tied up in litigation, and most concerning is that it would create a new precedent that a left-wing president would undoubtedly utilize to implement their radical policy agenda while bypassing the authority of Congress." House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler called for a hearing on the "serious constitutional and statutory issues" the declaration raises, Congressional votes in coming weeks on a resolution blocking the emergency declaration were highly likely, but the timing was uncertain. Once a resolution is introduced, leaders by law cannot prevent votes on such a measure, which would need a simple majority to pass each chamber. A resolution would all but certainly pass the Democratic-controlled House and may also pass the Republican-run Senate, if a few GOP senators break with Trump. □



**Grab a bite to eat by the beach at
Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort's**

ALL-AMERICAN BBQ
SUNSETS | LIVE MUSIC | FREE PARKING

Adults \$23.95 | Kids \$12.50*

Every Saturday from
6 PM - 10 PM
right after the happy hour



15% service charge and local tax added to final bill
Located at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 75, Palm Beach
For more information, call 586-6066 ext. 7002



Snow storm brings whiteout conditions to California's Sierra

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ** and **JOHN ANTCZAK**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Skiers eager to hit the slopes had to sit out a Presidents' Day holiday weekend as heavy snow and rain fell for a fourth straight day Friday in California's mountains, where the snow was so deep in some areas plows couldn't go out and cities were running out of places to pile it.

Several routes to the ski mecca of Lake Tahoe were closed Friday, including about 70 miles (110 kilometers) of Interstate 80 from Colfax, California, to the Nevada state line. Chains were required for travel in many other parts of the towering range.

"They have ordered up a large blower to try and clear the pass," Placer County Sheriff Lt. Andrew Scott said in a tweet he posted with a video of a snow-covered I-80. "Please stay home."

The storm is forecast to dump between 3 and 6 feet (1 to 2 meters) of fresh snow in a region where some ski resorts reported getting 3 feet (1 meter) of snow since Thursday. An avalanche warning was issued for the greater Lake Tahoe Area, where heavy snow and high winds are forecast through Sunday. It's snowed so much recently that cities are running out of places to put the snow, said Kevin Cooper, marketing director for Lake Tahoe TV.

"All avid skiers are itching

to get out on the mountain but the roads are pretty treacherous right now," he said.

Some skiers canceled their plans after seeing the reports.

Aura Campa, of Oakland, and her partner were hoping to take advantage of their season passes and the fresh powder at Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows resort, but a scary near-accident on an icy road last weekend made them reconsider.

When a main highway through the Lake Tahoe area was crushed with traffic, she drove her SUV on a side road. Her vehicle didn't have chains, and when it was going uphill the vehicle went into reverse.

"That was really scary for us. It was on a tiny hill with a small amount of ice but that was enough for us to think twice about traveling through a snow storm again," Campa said. "We're not going to risk it."

About 140 miles (225 kilometers) southeast of Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Mountain was about to break a more than 30-year record for monthly snowfall but skiers and snowboarders should be able to reach the slopes as long as they have chains or snow tires, said resort spokesman Justin Romano.

The resort has already gotten 163 inches (414 centimeters) of snow this month, just 5 inches shy of its monthly snowfall record for the month of February



Jinchun Xia, left, and Kevin Liu, 5, of San Francisco, roll a ball of snow for a snowman they made at Wingfield Park in downtown Reno, Nev., Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

1986.

The main route there, Highway 395, has been experiencing closures because of dangerous driving conditions, but was open Friday to those with the proper gear.

"The winds have calmed down and it looks like it's going to be an awesome weekend to get people up here," Romano said. "We're stoked to have them."

In other parts of California, crews turned to cleanup and damage assessment as the drenching storm brought flood dangers to Arizona.

Warnings were issued for Guerneville north of San Francisco as the Russian River surpassed flood

stage, and the San Francisco Bay Area commute was snarled after a levee breach partially flooded a highway.

There were at least two deaths. A woman pulled from rising water in a flood-control channel in Corona, southeast of Los Angeles, had a heart attack and died at a hospital. And the body of an unidentified man was recovered from a fast-flowing creek in Escondido, northeast of San Diego.

Arizona and other parts of the West on Friday dealt with effects of a blitz of winter weather.

Firefighters rescued a motorist who called 911 to report his car was being

swept down a wash in Tucson, Arizona, by runoff.

Residents were being helped after homes along a creek 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Flagstaff received up to several feet of water, said Yavapai County Sheriff's spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn.

Road crews in parts of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming worked to clear avalanches that had closed mountain highways and to mitigate potential avalanche threats.

Similarly, dangerous travel conditions, as well as power outages, flooding and road closures were cited in a decision to cancel classes in seven school districts in San Diego County. □

Judge halts Air Force's efforts to discharge airmen with HIV

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A federal judge on Friday ordered the U.S. Air Force to temporarily stop discharging service members who are HIV-positive, ruling that it's working under a policy that is "irrational" and "outdated."

U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema in Alexandria, Virginia, issued her decision as a lawsuit moves forward against the U.S. Military.

Service members in the Air Force claim they're being discharged solely because

of their HIV status and despite the recommendations of their doctors and commanding officers, who say they are fit to serve.

For now, the ruling keeps at least two HIV-positive men in the Air Force who were days and weeks away from being formally discharged. Air Force policies had prevented the service members with HIV from deploying to places outside the U.S., such as Iraq and Afghanistan, without a waiver. That, in turn, resulted in

the men being considered "unfit" for continued military service.

Because of advances in medicine and treatment for HIV, Judge Brinkema wrote that the disease "does not impose unreasonable burdens on the military when compared to similar chronic conditions." She also said that HIV "does not seriously jeopardize the health or safety of the service member or his companions in service."

The judge added that the

service members are likely to have some success in arguing their case as it moves forward.

The military has argued that the lawsuit is premature because the personnel have not explored all of their options within the military to fight being discharged. The military has also argued that such policy questions fall under the discretion of the federal government's executive branch.

The Department of Justice is representing the military.

Spokeswoman Kelly Laco said its attorneys are reviewing the judge's decision. She declined to comment further.

The service members are being represented by lawyers from the LGBT rights groups Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN as well as the law firm Winston & Strawn.

The service members' attorneys said a judge's ruling against the military is rare, and framed the decision as a significant legal victory. □

Ex-Gov. Weld likely not the last primary challenge to Trump

By HOLLY RAMER, STEVE PEOPLES and BOB SALSBERG

Associated Press

BEDFORD, N.H. (AP) — Former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, little-known on the national stage but well-respected among veterans in the GOP establishment, announced an exploratory committee for president on Friday, becoming the first Republican to move toward a serious primary challenge against President Donald Trump.

There are new signs he won't be the last.

Immediately after the 73-year-old Weld's announcement at a breakfast event in New Hampshire, a senior aide for former Ohio Gov. John Kasich indicated Kasich is likely to launch a primary challenge as well.

"All of our options remain on the table, and we're leaning toward a primary run," Kasich aide John Weaver told The Associated Press.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, meanwhile, met privately last week with conservative leader Bill Kristol, who's driving an effort to recruit a top-tier Trump primary challenger and operatives on the ground in key states.



Former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld gestures during a New England Council 'Politics & Eggs' breakfast in Bedford, N.H., Friday, Feb. 15, 2019. Weld announced he's creating a presidential exploratory committee for a run in the 2020 election.

Associated Press

Hogan aides acknowledge that the two-term Republican governor is openly considering a Trump challenge. Hogan is expected to spend the next two months focused on his state legislative session to be followed by a more active exploratory phase likely to include appearances in key primary states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. Weld's move makes Trump the first incumbent president since George H.W. Bush in 1992 to face a notable primary challenge.

"I think he deserves a lot

of credit for being the first one in the pool. The water's pretty cool at this point," Kristol said of Weld. "But he won't be the last."

While Trump's overall approval ratings have been poor for much of his presidency, he remains popular with Republican voters. Yet some Republican operatives have taken steps to protect the president from a serious primary challenge, which historically has foreshadowed trouble. Bush and Jimmy Carter lost their bids for a second term after facing challenges

from inside their party.

Speaking in New Hampshire, Weld blasted Trump for leaving the nation in "grave peril."

"We have a president whose priorities are skewed toward promotion of himself rather than for the good of the country," Weld said. "He may have great energy and considerable raw talent, but he does not use that in ways that promote democracy, truth, justice and equal opportunity for all. To compound matters, our president is simply too unstable to carry out the duties of the highest executive office in the land."

Asked to comment on Weld's campaign, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders responded: "Who?"

The Republican National Committee last month issued a nonbinding resolution to declare the party's undivided support for Trump.

"The RNC and the Republican Party are firmly behind the president," said RNC spokeswoman Cassie Smedile.

"Any effort to challenge the president's nomination is bound to go absolutely nowhere."

Stephen Stepanek, chairman of the New Hampshire Republican Party, pointed to Weld's past support of President Barack Obama and said he didn't expect Weld's campaign to get very far among Republican primary voters.

Weld "really needs to think about how welcome he is in the Republican Party," Stepanek said.

Fiscally conservative but socially liberal, the 73-year-old Weld ran on the Libertarian party ticket in 2016 with former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, receiving about 4.5 million votes, or a little more than 3 percent of the national popular vote.

Despite a pledge that he would remain a loyal libertarian, Weld on Jan. 17 walked into the clerk's office of the Massachusetts town where he lives and reregistered with the GOP. Weld has not won a political race since his landslide re-election in heavily Democratic Massachusetts in 1994. He was first elected to the office in 1990, defeating a conservative Democratic candidate, and quickly became one of Massachusetts' most popular governors in recent history. □



In this June 7, 2017, file photo, then-FBI acting director Andrew McCabe listens during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

By ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said in an interview posted Friday that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein broached the idea of using the Constitution to oust President Donald Trump, saying the

Justice Department official "discussed it with me in the context of thinking about how many other cabinet officials might support such an effort."

McCabe, in his interview with "60 Minutes," said Rosenstein was discussing "counting votes or possible

Ex-FBI official recounts discussion about 25th Amendment

votes" to invoke the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows Cabinet members to seek the removal of a president if they conclude that he or she is mentally unfit.

Though McCabe wouldn't confirm that Rosenstein was plotting to get rid of Trump, he said: "What I can say is the deputy attorney general was definitely very concerned about the president, about his capacity and about his intent at that point in time."

The Justice Department issued a statement Thursday that did not deny the conversation but that said Rosenstein believes "there is no basis to invoke the 25th Amendment, nor was (he)

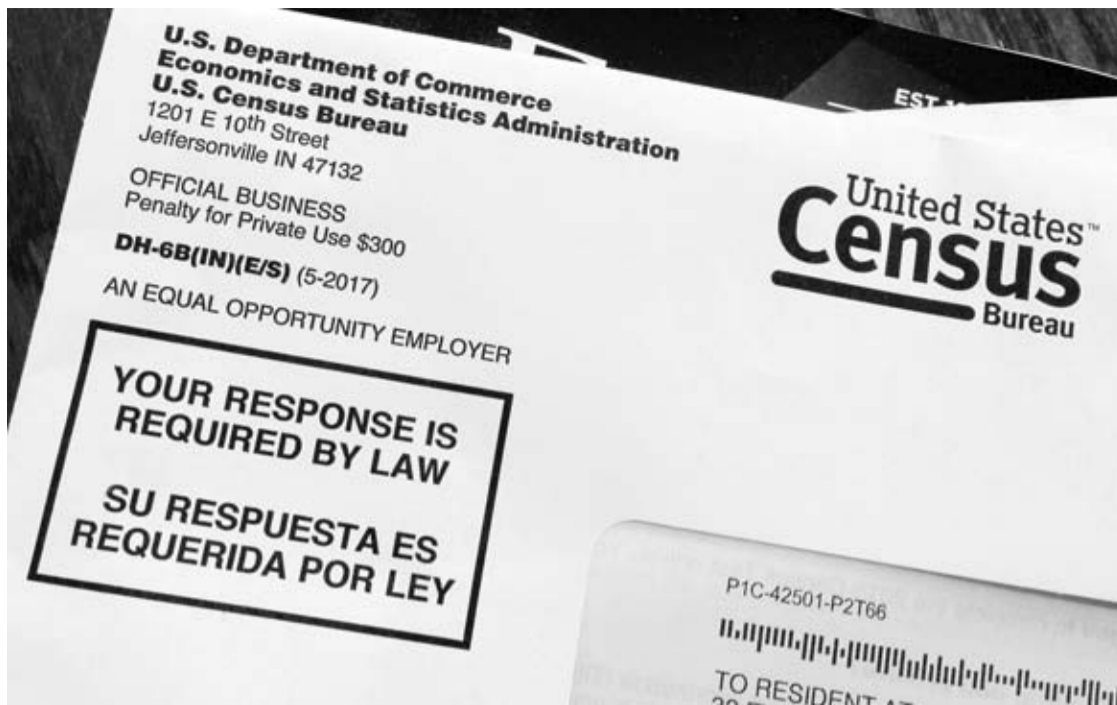
in a position to consider invoking the 25th Amendment."

CBS News posted the excerpt of its interview after ex-FBI official McCabe issued a statement saying comments of his on the subject had "been taken out of context and misrepresented." The interview will air Sunday on "60 Minutes." CBS released a story Thursday about its interview in which correspondent Scott Pelley said McCabe had confirmed a discussion about the Constitution's 25th Amendment. But the transcript of that section of the interview was not released until Friday, after McCabe spokeswoman Melissa Schwartz sought

to downplay McCabe's involvement in any discussions about a potential removal of the president.

"Certain statements made by Mr. McCabe, in interviews associated with the release of his book, have been taken out of context and misrepresented," the statement said. "To clarify, at no time did Mr. McCabe participate in any extended discussions about the use of the 25th Amendment, nor is he aware of any such discussions."

The interview was done ahead of the release next week of McCabe's book about his time in the FBI, "The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump." □



This March 23, 2018, file photo shows an envelope containing a 2018 census letter mailed to a U.S. resident as part of the nation's only test run of the 2020 Census.

Associated Press

Justices to decide if 2020 census can ask about citizenship

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court will decide whether the 2020 census can include a question about citizenship that could affect the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives and the distribution of billions of dollars in federal money.

The justices agreed Friday to a speedy review of a lower court ruling that has so far blocked the Trump administration from adding the citizenship question to the census for the first time since 1950.

Both the administration and opponents of the question agreed the court should settle the matter quickly because census forms need to be printed soon.

Arguments will take place in late April. A decision should come by late June. The case pits the administration against immigrant advocacy organizations and Democratic-led states, cities and counties that argue the citizenship question is intended to discourage the participation of minorities, primarily Hispanics, who tend to support Democrats from filling out census forms.

The challengers say they would get less federal money and fewer seats in Congress if the census asks about citizenship because people with noncitizens in

their households would be less likely to fill out their census forms.

The Constitution requires a census count every 10 years. A question about citizenship had once been common, but it has not been asked of every household since 1950. At the moment, the question is part of a detailed annual sample of a small chunk of the population, the American Community Survey.

The case stems from Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision in 2018 to add a citizenship question to the next census, over the advice of career officials at the Census Bureau, which is part of the Commerce Department. At the time, Ross said he was responding to a Justice Department request to ask about citizenship in order to improve enforcement of the federal Voting Rights Act.

U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman in New York ruled in January that the question could not be included, saying that fewer people would respond to the census and that the process Ross used was faulty.

Pressed for time, the administration bypassed the federal appeals court in New York and appealed directly to the justices. The challengers defended the lower court ruling, but ac-

knowledged the need for a quick answer to the legal issue.

It's rare for the high court to weigh in without the benefit of appellate rulings. Such interventions usually are reserved for national political crises, including the Pentagon Papers case.

The administration has defended the addition of the citizenship question by arguing that courts have no business second-guessing the commerce secretary in performing a basic function of his job.

But Furman largely agreed with the local and state governments and rights groups that sued over the issue. He pointed out that Ross had ignored his own experts' views that a census with a citizenship question would produce less accurate results and add to the costs. Documents and testimony produced as part of the trial in New York showed that Ross had begun pressing for a citizenship question soon after he became secretary in 2017, and that he had consulted Steve Bannon, who had been President Donald Trump's top political adviser, and then-Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Emails showed that Ross himself had invited the Justice Department request to add the citizenship question. □



Police officers armed with rifles gather at the scene where an active shooter was reported in Aurora, Ill., Friday, Feb. 15, 2019. Associated Press

Gunman kills 5, wounds 5 police at Illinois business

By **CARRIE ANTLFINGER** and **AMANDA SEITZ**

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — A gunman opened fire at a manufacturing plant in suburban Chicago on Friday, killing five people and wounding five police officers before he was fatally shot, police said.

Aurora, Illinois, Police Chief Kristen Ziman told a news conference that the gunman was 45-year-old Gary Martin and said he was believed to be an employee at the Henry Pratt Co. in the city about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago. She told reporters that officers arrived within four minutes of receiving reports of the shooting and were fired upon as soon as they entered the 29,000-square-foot manufacturing warehouse.

Police said they did not know the gunman's motive.

"May God bless the brave law enforcement officers who continue to run toward danger," Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at the news conference.

Hospitals reported treating at least seven patients from the shooting, though their conditions weren't released. Two of the officers were airlifted to trauma centers in Chicago, Ziman said. She said a sixth officer suffered a knee injury. Officials did not say the total number of people injured

other than the police officers.

Dozens of first responder vehicles converged on the building housing the company in Aurora after police received multiple calls about an active shooter at 1:24 p.m. CST.

Several ATF teams also responded to the shooting and were at the scene, according to the agency's Chicago spokeswoman, and the FBI said it also responded.

John Probst, an employee at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, told ABC7 that he ran out of the back door as the shooting unfolded Friday afternoon. Probst says he recognized the gunman and that he works for the company. "What I saw was the guy running down the aisle with a pistol with a laser on it," Probst said.

Probst said he wasn't hurt but that another colleague was "bleeding pretty bad." The company makes valves for industrial purposes.

The White House said President Donald Trump was briefed on the shooting and monitoring the situation as he prepared to depart for a weekend trip to his home in Palm Beach, Florida. Trump tweeted his thanks to law enforcement officers in Aurora and offered his condolences to the victims and their families. "America is with you," he said. □

9/11 fund running out of money for those with illnesses

By **KAREN MATTHEWS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The compensation fund for victims of 9/11 is running out of money and will cut future payments by 50 to 70 percent, officials announced Friday.

September 11th Victim Compensation Fund special master Rupa Bhattacharyya said she was "painfully aware of the inequity of the situation" but stressed that awarding some funds for every valid claim would be preferable to sending some legitimate claimants away empty-handed. "I could not abide a plan that would at the end of the day leave some claimants uncompensated," Bhattacharyya said.

Nearly 40,000 people have applied to the federal fund for people with illnesses potentially related to being at the World Trade Center site, the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after the 2001 terror attacks there, and about 19,000 of those claims are pending. Nearly \$5 billion in benefits have been awarded out of the \$7.3 billion fund.

Bhattacharyya said fund



In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, with the skeleton of the World Trade Center twin towers in the background, New York City firefighters work amid debris on Cortlandt St. after the terrorist attacks. Associated Press

officials estimate it would take another \$5 billion to pay pending claims and the claims that officials anticipate will be submitted before the fund's December 2020 deadline.

Absent that funding, officials determined that pending claims submitted by Feb. 1 would be paid at

50 percent of their prior value. Valid claims received after that date will be paid at just 30 percent.

Members of Congress responded to Friday's announcement by vowing to reauthorize the compensation fund.

"This is devastating news to the thousands of sick

and injured 9/11 responders and survivors who were promised, and have been counting on, being fully compensated for the losses they have suffered," Democratic Reps. Jerry Nadler and Carolyn Maloney and Republican Peter King said in a statement.

They said they would intro-

duce legislation to make the compensation fund permanent and to compensate all legitimate claimants. "Our bill would restore any cuts to awards, ensure that future eligible recipients are fully compensated, and make the VCF program permanent," the lawmakers said.

The collapse of the trade center in 2001 sent a cloud of thick dust billowing over Lower Manhattan. Fires burned for weeks. Thousands of construction workers, police officers, firefighters and others spent time working in the soot, often without proper respiratory protection.

In the 17 years since, many have seen their health decline, some with respiratory or digestive-system ailments that appeared almost immediately, others with illnesses that developed as they aged, including cancer. Scientists can't say definitively whether toxins at the site gave people cancer. One study published last year found that overall mortality rates among nearly 30,000 rescue and recovery workers weren't elevated. □

Washington lawmakers advance limits on vaccine exemptions

By **RACHEL LA CORTE**

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington state lawmakers advanced a measure Friday that would remove parents' ability to claim a personal or philosophical exemption to vaccinating their school-age children for measles as the Pacific Northwest struggles with an outbreak of the contagious virus.

The House Health Care and Wellness Committee approved House Bill 1638 on a 10-5 vote. The full House could vote on it in the coming weeks.

The legislation comes amid an outbreak that has sickened more than 50 people in the Pacific Northwest and led Washington Gov. Jay Inslee to declare a state of emergency. Health officials have reported at least 54 known cases in



In this Feb. 8, 2019, file photo, people hold signs at a rally at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash., to oppose a proposed bill that would remove parents' ability to claim a philosophical exemption to opt their school-age children out of the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

Associated Press

Washington state and four in Oregon.

Washington is among 17 states, including Oregon, that allow some type of non-medical vaccine exemption for "personal, mor-

al or other beliefs," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Washington now allows vaccination exemptions for children at public or private schools or licensed

day-care centers based on medical, religious and personal or philosophical beliefs. Unless an exemption is claimed, a child is required to be vaccinated against or show proof of acquired immunity for nearly a dozen diseases — including polio, whooping cough and mumps — before they can attend school or a child care center.

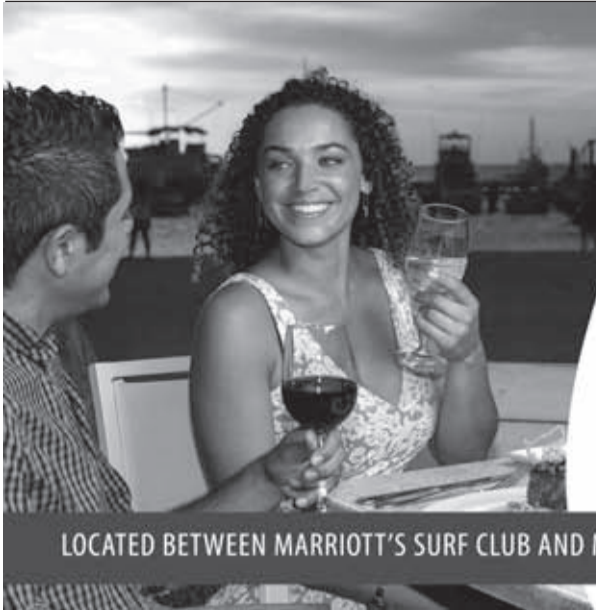
Hundreds of people who oppose ending the exemptions, including environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., showed up at a public hearing on the legislation last week.

A broader measure introduced in the state Senate, which would not allow personal or philosophical exemptions to be granted for any required school vaccinations, is scheduled for a public hearing next Wednesday.

Four percent of Washington secondary school students have non-medical vaccine exemptions, the state Department of Health said. Of those, 3.7 percent of the exemptions are personal, and the rest are religious.

In Clark County — an area just north of Portland, Oregon, where all but one of the Washington cases are concentrated — 6.7 percent of kindergartners had a non-medical exemption for the 2017-18 school year, health officials said.

California removed personal belief vaccine exemptions for children in both public and private schools in 2015 after a measles outbreak at Disneyland sickened 147 people and spread across the U.S. and into Canada. Vermont also abandoned its personal exemption in 2015. □



Hadicurari 
Restaurant at the Fisherman's Pier - Aruba

JUST
\$29.50
+15%
SERVICE
CHARGE

ENJOY A **TOES-IN-THE-SAND** SUNSET DINNER
3-COURSE SUNSET SPECIAL • DAILY 5 -7PM

LOCATED BETWEEN MARRIOTT'S SURF CLUB AND MOOMBA BEACH | TEL: +297 586 2288 | E: HADICURARI@ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM | WWW.HADICURARI.COM

Portland police texts with far-right group spark probe

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The city of Portland, often in the spotlight for its liberal leanings, has been roiled by the revelation that a police lieutenant in charge of containing protests texted repeatedly with the leader of a far-right group involved in those demonstrations. The mayor asked the police chief Friday to investigate "disturbing" texts between Lt. Jeff Niiya, who is the head of the Police Bureau's rapid response team, and the leader of a Washington-based group called Patriot Prayer that has repeatedly crossed into Oregon to stage right-wing rallies and marches. The events in Portland and other West Coast cities routinely draw crowds of self-described anti-fascists, who show up in force to try to shut down leader Joey Gibson and his followers. Police have struggled to contain the violent clashes and residents have grown used to events that shut down streets for hours, leave downtown windows shattered and end in open brawls, fires, injuries and dozens of arrests. The text messages, first obtained by the Willamette Week newspaper through a public records request, show Niiya communicating with Gibson before, during and after those clashes. In texts spread over months, Niiya at times details the movement of a rival anti-fascist protest group, warns Gibson by text that a friend of Gibson who is a member of a documented hate

group could risk arrest by showing up in Oregon and congratulates Gibson on his decision to run for an open U.S. Senate seat in Washington state. "The hate against me will multiply because I am running for office, so when I come into Portland and Seattle the energy will be high. I know it's a pain in the ass for you guys, but I will do the best I can to work with you," Gibson texted Niiya on Jan. 22, 2018. After learning Gibson was a candidate, Niiya responded: "I won't say anything. Thank you for trusting me and letting me know. I appreciate it." It's not unusual for police to talk with those organizing protests in advance to work on planning, which makes it harder to say if these texts were out of line without hearing Niiya's account, said Heidi Beirich, director of the intelligence project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization that tracks hate groups and extremist activity. But the texts did seem "odd for their chattiness," she said, and warrant an investigation. While Patriot Prayer is not considered a hate group, its members often align themselves with known hate groups and white supremacists, she added. The Portland Police Commanding Officers Association said in a statement Friday that Niiya was following orders by establishing communication with Gibson. The Willamette Week reported that Niiya texted with an anti-fascist protest-



In this April 27, 2017, file photo, Joey Gibson speaks during a rally in support of free speech in Berkeley, Calif.

er as well in 2017 — communications that led to that person being disowned by her fellow activists. "Everything was about de-escalating and avoiding conflict. It was his job and he does that with several activists," Gibson said in a phone interview on Friday. "There were several times when he was literally begging for me to leave Portland — and on numerous occasions, I would do it." Niiya did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment. In a statement, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said police must remain objective and that the texts appear to "cross several boundaries." "They also raise questions about whether warrants

are being enforced consistently and what information is being shared with individuals who may be subject to arrest," he said. In one text, Niiya tells Gibson he does not see a need to arrest Gibson's assistant, Tusitola "Tiny" Toese, who often brawls with anti-fascist protesters, even if he was the target of a warrant, unless Toese committed a new crime. Toese is a member of the Proud Boys, a documented hate group. "Just make sure he doesn't do anything which may draw our attention," Niiya texted Gibson on Dec. 9, 2017. "If he still has the warrant in the system (I don't run you guys so I don't personally know) the officers could arrest him. I don't

see a need to arrest on the warrant unless there is a reason." Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement that an internal review would be conducted to determine if policies were violated. "If anything is identified that is deemed outside of our values and directives, it will be addressed," Outlaw said. Niiya will no longer work with police department's rapid response team during the investigation, police said in a statement, and a community "listening session" was scheduled by the police for next week. City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty said the "broken policing system in Portland" must be addressed. □

Spain to get 3rd gov't in 4 years amid fragmenting politics

By ARITZ PARRA

MADRID (AP) — Spain will elect its third government in less than four years after Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's fragile socialist government acknowledged Friday its support had evaporated and called an early general election.

Sanchez's eight-month-old administration met its end after failing to get parliament's approval for its 2019 budget proposal earlier this week, adding to the political uncertainty that has dogged Spain in recent years.

"Between doing nothing and continuing without a budget, or giving the chance for Spaniards to speak, Spain should continue looking ahead," Sanchez said in a televised appearance from the Moncloa Palace, the seat of government, after an urgent Cabinet meeting.

The ballot will take place on April 28. It is expected



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez delivers a statement at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

to highlight the increasingly fragmented political landscape that has denied the European Union country a stable government in re-

cent elections.

The 46-year-old prime minister ousted his conservative predecessor Mariano Rajoy last June, when he

won a no-confidence vote triggered by a damaging corruption conviction affecting Rajoy's Popular Party.

But the simple majority of Socialists, anti-austerity parties and regional nationalists that united against Rajoy crumbled in the past week after Sanchez broke off talks with the Catalan separatists over their demands for the independence of their prosperous northeastern region.

Sanchez saw the Catalan separatists join opposition lawmakers to vote down his spending plans, including social problems he had hoped would boost his party's popularity.

Sanchez had the shortest term in power for any prime minister since Spain transitioned to democracy four decades ago.

Without mentioning Catalonia directly, Sanchez said he remained committed to dialogue with the country's regions as long as their demands fell "within the constitution and the law," which don't allow a region to secede. □

Netanyahu leaves Poland after plane mishap delayed departure

By ARON HELLER

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to spend an extra night in Warsaw after his plane was damaged following an airport mishap shortly before departure. He departed around noon Friday, marking an inauspicious ending to a turbulent visit.

The prime minister and his entire entourage were on-board a chartered El Al plane shortly after midnight, after a two-day visit to a high-profile security conference, when a vehicle towing the aircraft on the runway crashed into it. A photo circulated to traveling journalists showed large scrapes in the underbelly of the aircraft.

Netanyahu and his wife were taken off the plane and ushered back to their hotel. Other aides, including Netanyahu's national security adviser and his military secretary, spent the night on the aircraft, saying they did not want to go through the hassle of pre-boarding security checks



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacts during a bilateral meeting with United States Vice President Mike Pence in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

again.

A replacement plane was dispatched from Israel to urgently return the prime minister before the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath at sundown.

Piotr Rudzki, a spokesman

for Warsaw Chopin Airport, told The Associated Press the incident occurred as the chartered Boeing 777 was being pushed back from its parking stand by a pushback vehicle. There was damage to the plane's

front landing gear and lower fuselage, he said. Poland's state commission for aviation opened a probe. Netanyahu's government has been trying to purchase an official plane for the prime minister to use.

It capped a tumultuous visit for Netanyahu, who was in Poland for a U.S.-sponsored security conference attended by several high-profile Arab officials from Gulf countries.

Netanyahu had hoped to use the gathering to showcase his budding ties with the Gulf Arabs. But a verbal gaffe and a video leaked by his office threatened to overshadow the event.

On the eve of the meeting, Netanyahu appeared to call on other participants to prepare for "war with Iran." His office later said he had been mistranslated and only called on other countries to "combat" Iranian influence in the region.

Late Thursday, his office briefly leaked a video showing Bahrain's foreign minister, and representatives of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates playing down the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and harshly criticizing Iran.

Netanyahu's office said the video's release was a "technical error" and quickly deleted it. □

France's Le Pen boasts far-right power for EU elections

By ELAINE GANLEY

NANTERRE, France (AP) —

Where once she felt isolated, French far-right leader Marine Le Pen feels she is now part of a crowd of populist parties on the rise around Europe that she thinks can make new inroads in European elections less than 100 days away — and start restructuring the EU from within.

"Things have changed a lot," Le Pen said Friday at a news conference. "We are no longer isolated at all on the European scene."

She noted that parties of the same ilk as her re-named National Rally are now holding or sharing power, from the League in Italy, which is part of the government, to Austria with its far-right chancellor, Sebastian Kurz.

She made no mention of U.S. President Donald Trump whose victory fueled her own battle for the



In this Jan. 13, 2019 file photo, French far-right leader Marine le Pen arrives for a campaign meeting in Paris.

Associated Press

French presidency in 2017 when she often invoked his name. She lost by a landslide in the runoff to upstart centrist Emmanuel Macron, and derides him, still, as the

symbol of what she is fighting — a system that sacrifices national sovereignty, borders and identity for a globalized world.

Steve Bannon, the former

chief White House strategist who played a central role in Trump's 2016 campaign, is looking to boost far-right parties in Europe. However, his foundation, The Move-

ment, which Le Pen described as a think tank to discuss larger issues — not an electoral advice platform — has yet to schedule an event, she said. Bannon made a surprise appearance at a major rally last year of Le Pen's party and she said they remain in touch.

Bannon has pointed to the Italian interior minister and League leader Matteo Salvini — a longstanding ally of Le Pen — as the future of European politics.

"Today, Europe has taken a turn," Le Pen said, claiming that "we can legitimately envision today to change Europe from inside, to modify the very nature of the European Union, because we consider ourselves powerful enough."

Speaking to the Anglo-American Press Association, she predicted better results this year for her party and for European allies. □

Hackers flock to hunt for cracks in Swiss e-voting system

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss authorities are trumpeting the fact that more than 2,000 would-be hackers from around the world have taken up an invitation to try to find holes in Switzerland's groundbreaking online voting system — and potentially earn tens of thousands of francs (dollars) if they succeed.

The Federal Chancellery and Swiss regions, known as cantons, expressed satisfaction at the high response barely a week after launching a registration for IT experts to help crack a planned update to Switzerland's 15-year-old e-voting system. Among countries in Europe, only Estonia has a similar online voting program, a Swiss official said. As of Friday morning, more than 2,000 had been registered.

The effort amounts to a coming-of-age of Swiss e-voting, or online voting, systems: After over 200 trials and the rollout of e-voting already in 14 of Switzerland's 26 cantons, authori-



In this file photo dated Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, A Swiss voter casts his ballot at a polling station as Swiss voters decide on a proposal to cap immigration to the Alpine republic, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Associated Press

ties now believe they've developed "completely verifiable systems" that they hope to introduce for the first time this year.

But first, they have to be tested: Thus the appeal to hackers to give it their best

shots. There are rules to the challenge, and Swiss Post ultimately is looking for such experts to help find unknown vulnerabilities so the system can be strengthened.

The outreach to computer

whizzes in Switzerland and beyond amounts to an unusually candid and transparent approach to prevent illegal, nefarious hacking that has befuddled authorities in some countries, allegedly at times by state-

backed intruders bent on upending Western democracies.

The Swiss want to get out front on a system that could, one day, be mirrored or applied in other democracies.

Under the arrangement with e-voting system operator Swiss Post, the four-week test run — known as a public intrusion test — starts Feb. 24. Hackers and IT specialists can earn anywhere from 100 francs to 50,000 francs, depending on the type of flaws they find, if their findings from "deliberate attacks" are deemed worthy by an outside test organizer. A total of 150,000 francs is to be disbursed.

"Swiss Post believes that only a transparent e-voting solution can be successful in the long term," the invitation to the challenge said on the site, onlinevote-pitch. "By opening it up to an intrusion test, it is exposing its system to the intelligence and skill of sophisticated hackers to identify whether, when and how its e-voting system can be compromised." □

Push on last IS enclave blunted by discovery of civilians

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria (AP) —

The offensive on the last enclave held by the Islamic State group in eastern Syria has been blunted by the discovery of hundreds of civilians still living there, a commander with the Kurdish-led force fighting the extremists said Friday.

The U.S.-backed force known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, launched the offensive to liberate the IS-held village of Baghouz a week ago, after more than 20,000 civilians, many of them foreign wives of IS militants, were evacuated through a corridor from the area in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour.

In Washington, President Donald Trump said the White House will make an announcement about Syria and the fight against IS by Saturday. He did not give details but his comments contrasted with the picture painted by SDF commanders, who said the battle has been progressing slowly.

"We have a lot of great announcements having to do with Syria and our success with the eradication of the caliphate and that will be announced over the next 24 hours," Trump told journalists at the White House. Adnan Afrin, the Kurdish commander, told The Associated Press that in the last three days IS militants



U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters sit atop a hill in the desert outside the village of Baghouz, Syria, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

brought up hundreds of civilians from underground tunnels to make the SDF and U.S.-led coalition aware of their presence. He estimated that around 1,000 civilians, including women and children, are still in the area. He added that militants were hiding among them and using them as human shields.

"This was a surprise. We did not imagine there would be this number of civilians left," Afrin said. He said they were likely to be families of IS militants, but their discovery nonetheless has blunted the offensive. "We do not want to cause a massacre against civilians in the last (IS) pock-

et," he said.

A blitz of airstrikes and shelling last week was believed to signal the end of the campaign against IS in its last stronghold in Syria. Thousands of people, including many foreign fighters and their families, emerged from the area amid ferocious fighting as the SDF closed in from three sides under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition. IS militants are now clinging to their last square kilometer (mile) of land in Baghouz. The anticipated declaration of victory against the group, however, has been delayed by this discovery of a large number of civilians in the area.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, reported late Friday that a convoy of seven trucks, three ambulances and other vehicles including Humvees for the U.S.-led coalition headed toward the IS-held area. The group said it believes that the aim is to draw out the remaining IS gunmen and their families.

"The convoy is likely to come back with at least 200 Islamic State group members of different nationalities," the Observatory said, adding that it was not clear if they would agree to surrender. Hundreds of IS fighters have surrendered over the past weeks and

were apprehended by members of the U.S.-led coalition and SDF fighters.

Organized access to the front line has been restricted for journalists amid security concerns, particularly after the injury of an Italian photographer earlier this week.

U.S.-backed forces are now conducting precision operations targeting the militants' outposts in and around the village of Baghouz and working to clear surrounding villages of remaining fighters, SDF officials said. The capture of Baghouz and nearby areas would mark the conclusion of a devastating four-year global campaign to end the extremist group's hold on territory in Syria and Iraq, their so-called "caliphate," which at the height of the extremists group's power in 2014 covered nearly a third of both Iraq and Syria.

President Donald Trump has said the group is all but defeated. He announced in December that he would withdraw the 2,000 American troops in Syria.

It is not clear whether the Islamic State group is holding any civilian prisoners in the enclave, beyond their own families.

"We aim to save any prisoners, but we have no information about them. They can be among the civilians, or in underground prisons, we have no information," said Afrin, the SDF commander. □

Far right tried to influence Bavarian election

MUNICH (AP) — Far-right groups engaged in concerted social media campaigns to influence last year's election in the German state of Bavaria by promoting the Alternative for Germany party and smearing its opponents, according to a study published Friday.

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a London-based think tank, said it also identified online tactics used by German and international far-right activists to amplify

the support for the far-right party and undermine trust in the election process.

Alternative for Germany, known by its acronym AfD, received 10.2 percent of the vote in the October election, sapping support from the governing Christian Social Union. The report, released at the annual Munich Security Conference, didn't determine whether the online efforts contributed to AfD's electoral success or not. Researchers said the election

meddling wasn't driven by foreign countries, but rather by non-state networks of international far-right activists "using English language instruction manuals, meme banks and targeted trolling hit-lists." A similar set of tactics had been observed in earlier elections in Italy, Sweden and during national elections in Germany, they said. Far-right activists were helped by new technology platforms that allowed them to communicate privately in what the

authors called "safe havens for international extremist mobilization online."

The report calls for more research into online election meddling, greater transparency in advertising and for technology companies to better enforce existing policies designed to prevent abuse of their services. The authors suggest this is "vital in order to mitigate the potential derailing of the forthcoming EU parliamentary elections" in May. "We have repeatedly seen

evidence of a playbook of online tactics deployed by transnational cultural and ethno-nativist groups to influence national elections in Europe, but this is the first time we have seen it played out on a regional level," said Sasha Havlicek, chief executive of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. "The concerted effort to influence the elections in Bavaria should be a warning sign to those overseeing election integrity across Europe." □



Pelican Adventures

Celebrating our 30th anniversary with YOU!

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK: Sunset & Dinner Cruise

Includes snacks, open Bar, caribbean music, after 2 hours of Sunset Cruise you will enjoy a 3 course Dinner at our Pelican Nest Restaurant on the Sea, spectacular view, professional service, Freshly made dishes to spoil your senses.



Visit us at Casa del Mar, Playa Linda, Holiday Inn Concierge/lobby desk/ beach huts, RIU Hut between Antilla & Palace Hotel on the beach, or at our own Pelican Pier located between the Holiday Inn & Playa Linda Resort.

For reservations call 587-2302 (Mon-Sun) Or book online at: www.pelican-aruba.com

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 DISCOUNT PER COUPLE

North Korea exploring sanctions-proof energy technologies

NAMPO, North Korea (AP) — Power-strapped North Korea is exploring two ambitious alternative energy sources — tidal power and coal-based synthetic fuels — that could greatly improve living standards and reduce its reliance on oil imports and vulnerability to sanctions.

Finding a lasting energy source that isn't vulnerable to sanctions has long been a top priority for North Korean officials. Leader Kim Jong Un used his New Year's address last month to call on the country to "radically increase the production of electricity" and singled out the coal-mining industry as a "primary front in developing the self-supporting economy." For the longer-term, he stressed the importance of atomic, wind and tidal power.

Since further development of atomic energy is unlikely anytime soon, the power-scarce country is developing technology to "gasify" coal into substitute motor fuels. It also is looking into using huge sea barriers with electricity-generating turbines to harness the power of the ocean's tides.

Coal and hydropower are North Korea's main energy resources. The North imports nearly all of its oil and petroleum products from China. Solar panels are visible just about everywhere, from urban balconies to rural farm buildings and military installations. Wind remains a very minor energy source.

The North's renewed focus on oil alternatives underscores what some foreign observers believe are two of its long-term best bets. Kim's late father, Kim Jong Il, tried to get international support for developing nuclear power in the 1990s before the North ultimately



In this Feb. 2, 2019, photo, North Koreans men walk with the background of the West Sea Barrage in Nampo, North Korea.

opted instead for nuclear weapons. That brought some of the most intense sanctions ever applied by the United Nations against the country, making its energy situation even more precarious.

But coal is something North Korea has in abundance. It's used to supply thermal power plants and factories, to heat homes and to make fertilizer and even a kind of cloth, called Vinyon. Slow-running, smoke-belching trucks that use a gasification process with firewood are common in the North Korean countryside. Coal isn't generally seen as a good oil-product substitute because converting it to a liquid form is inefficient and expensive — coal gasification was last used on a large scale in Nazi Germany to keep its cars and

trucks moving.

Given North Korea's limited options, it's a technology that appears to be paying off.

The output from just one gasifier unit reportedly destined for the North Sunchon Chemical Plant, north of Pyongyang, could yield synthetic fuel amounting to about 10 percent of the North's recent petroleum supply, according to a recent study for the Nautilus Institute by David von Hippel and Peter Hayes, two of the foremost experts on the issue. The study cited as one of its sources a Wall Street Journal report from December that tracked the unit to a Chinese exporter.

The facility is believed to be a center of "C-1" technology, which uses coal to make a kind of gas used to

produce synthetic fuels, industrial chemicals and fertilizers.

Now that China has reduced its coal imports from the North in line with the sanctions, there's more available for gasification.

"The project appears to provide a significant benefit to the DPRK, in terms of supplying fuels to compensate for petroleum product imports that run afoul of United Nations Security Council sanctions passed in the last two years, although the project will not completely replace all lost imports on its own," they wrote in the report.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North's interest in tidal energy also reflects a practical desire to exploit existing resources.

Glyn Ford, a former member of the European Parliament with extensive experience with the North, said he has had several discussions with North Korean officials regarding tidal power and even helped arrange a study tour to a facility in the UK a decade ago. He said they have tried to invite experts to the North.

The country is perfectly situated for tidal power.

"The bulk of the Korean Peninsula's west coast is a rich tidal power resource," Ford said in a telephone interview with The AP. "There are some detailed studies of the potential in South Korea and the same resources are there to be exploited north of the Demilitarized Zone."

The world's largest functioning tidal power plant is located near the South Korean city of Ansan. It opened in 2011 and produces about enough power to support a city of 500,000.

Kim Jong Un has shown a strong penchant for mobilizing his million-man military on big projects. And the North has shown it can build something like a tidal power plant.

One of North Korea's proudest accomplishments is the gigantic West Sea Barrage, which was completed in 1986 at a cost of \$4 billion. The huge seawall near the city of Nampo, a port about an hour's drive from the capital, crosses the mouth of the Taedong River and helps control flooding and reduce the amount of salt that seeps in from the ocean, increasing the amount and quality of arable land.

"The attraction is that, apart from the turbines, it is all a gigantic earth-moving project," Ford said. "That's ideal for the Korean People's Army skillset." □

Associated Press

Haiti to unveil economic measures to quell violent protests

By **EVENS SANON**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Haitians on Friday vowed to keep protesting until President Jovenel Moïse resigns, despite his announcement of upcoming economic measures designed to quell more than a week of violent demonstrations across the country.

Moïse said during a televised address late Thursday that he would not surrender the country to armed gangs and drug dealers, and he accused people of freeing prisoners to kill him. It was the first time Moïse had spoken since the demonstrations began, and he made another call for dialogue with the opposition.

"I heard the voice of the people. I know the problems that torment them. That's why the government has taken a lot of measures," he said. "I asked the Prime Minister to come and explain them and imple-



In this Feb. 7, 2019 photo, thousands of demonstrators march in the street as they chant anti-government slogans during a protest to demand the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse and demanding to know how Petro Caribe funds have been used by the current and past administrations, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

ment them without delay in order to relieve misery." He said Prime Minister Jean-

Henry Ceant will share details of the new economic measures Friday.

The announcement comes as protesters remain angry about skyrocketing infla-

tion and the government's failure to prosecute embezzlement from a multi-billion dollar Venezuelan program that sent discounted oil to Haiti. Few believe the government will take any steps to alleviate the crisis.

"The president has been lying to the nation," said Marco Jean-Baptiste, a 41-year-old mechanic who has been unable to work since the demonstrations began and worries about his three children.

Protesters continued to block roads across Haiti as food, water and gas became scarce. Schools, businesses and government offices remain closed.

Widler Saintil, a 35-year-old shop owner, said he has been forced to reduce the amount of food he eats because he can't afford to buy as much milk, bread, sugar, rice or beans as before. He also has been unable to work or send his two children to school. □

Migrants held in northern Mexico scuffle with police guards

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police briefly scuffled with some of the 1,600 Central American migrants who have been confined at an improvised shelter in the Mexican border town of Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Video of Wednesday's incident shows some migrants tearing down a temporary awning and trying to wrestle metal barricades away from police.

The government of the border state of Coahuila said the situation was brought under control and talks were held with the migrants, who have been confined for at least 10 days in a vacant factory building that is ringed by police and soldiers.

Authorities said some of the migrants were angry about not being allowed out to go to a local store. They said about 30 were later permitted to go to the store, where migrants buy supplies to supplement the food they are given at the shelter. Coahuila's govern-



Central American immigrant families look out through the fence of a shelter in Piedras Negras, Mexico, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

Associated Press

ment said it would not hesitate to turn over migrants to Mexican immigration authorities for deportation if there were any more disturbances.

"We have put a lot of effort into maintaining order and

we will not allow disrespect for the law," state security secretary Jose Luis Pliego said. "We will act rigorously, if needed."

Officials said some migrants have asked to be taken to other cities in northern

Mexico, presumably thinking they would have more freedom of movement.

The migrants want to present asylum claims in Eagle Pass, but only about a dozen per day are being allowed to do so.

Joe Rivano Barros, a field officer with the Texas-based refugee advocacy group Raices, said the migrants are frustrated because of a lack of information and lack of free movement.

"It's monotonous, it's like living in a prison," Rivano Barros said of the migrants he has spoken to through the chain-link fence at the shelter. His group, which offers free legal services to migrants, is not allowed inside the shelter. Mexico's federal government had said previously that the migrants were not being allowed out of the shelter except under escort because most did not have humanitarian transit visas, while other groups of Central Americans have waited at the Mexico-Guatemala border to apply for such visas. But after a few hundred migrants at the shelter got humanitarian visas, most still weren't allowed to freely come and go at the shelter. Migrants frustrated by the lack of information and confinement have asked to go elsewhere. □

LOCAL



It's Carnival!

While the official opening of the carnival season took off with the Torch Parade at January 5, the island caught the carnival fever and since then entered a series of carnival events that go on until March 3. What has been past weekend and week: the Children's Parade Noord and the Grand Final Caiso & Soca Monarch in San Nicolas Carnival Village. Coming up tomorrow: Transfer of command at Government Main Office at 10:00 AM and the Grand Children's Carnival Parade in Oranjestad starting at 1:00 PM.

The island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. If you have never been here before, come in carnival season as your experience will be amazing. Sensational musical events, queen elections and different parades are all part of this spectacular phenomenon. Carnival is part of Aruba's history and cultural heritage, actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local mu-

sic while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and up-beat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit. Behind the screens there is an enormous organization that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day normal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.

History

In the 1920's the first carnival events were organized by social clubs that started private costume and masquerade parties. This year we celebrate Aruba's 65th carnival, which means that the first grand parade took place in 1955. Since than Aru-



ba's carnival has grown big and is now able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the most renowned Carnival celebrations around the world. Aruba Today has put the coming carnival events for you in a row:

- February 17 – Transfer of command at Government Main Office – 10:00 AM
- February 17 – Grand Children's Carnival Parade in Oranjestad – 1:00 PM
- February 23 – Jouvert Morning & Pyjama Party in San Nicolas – 3:00 am
- February 23 – Aruba's Grand Lighting Parade in Oranjestad – 8:00 PM
- February 24 – Grand Children's Parade in San Nico-

las – 1:00 PM

- February 24 – Buring of Momoito in Carnival Village – 7:30 PM
- February 28 – Lighting Parade in San Nicolas – 8:00 PM
- March 1 – Hebbe Hebbe Music Festival parking lot Post Office – 8:00 PM
- March 2 – Grand Carnival Parade in San Nicolas – 10:00 AM
- March 3 – 65th Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad – 10:00 AM
- March 3 – Burning of King Momo (ending of Grand Parade) 8:00 PM

For more information you can visit Facebook page SMAC, the official carnival organization. □

Carnaval Jump In at Ling & Sons! Shop & have fun at your favorite supermarket Aruba



ORANJESTAD- Ling & sons, the largest American style-supermarket in Aruba invites you to come and join their Carnaval Celebration "Jump in" this Saturday February 16 from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Famous Aruban Carnaval band BMW will be the musical guest with the Carnaval group Majestic are ready to make everyone dance and have a good one meanwhile you shop at your favorite supermarket in Aruba, Ling & Sons.

Ling & Sons is open from Monday to Saturday from 7.30am to 9.00pm and Sunday from 9am to 6.00pm. For more information please visit www.lingandsons.com or follow Ling & Sons on [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/lingandsons)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lingandsons). □

How do snowbirds escape the winter blues?



By Melissa Martin
ORANJESTAD — I'm dreaming of a colorful beach getaway. Perhaps, a jaunt to the Caribbean Islands. A slice of paradise to refresh the chilly mood and attitude. Leave the snow and slick-iced roads behind. The Caribbean culture is calling for beach bunnies.

"The Caribbean region is located southeast of the Gulf of Mexico and the North American mainland and measures around 1,000 miles from north to south and over 2,500 miles from east to west. Much of it is ocean and the Caribbean region includes about 700 islands, islets, reefs, and cays in and surrounding the Caribbean Sea. Across the Caribbean region, there is diverse topography including coral reefs, mountains, tropical forests, low-lying plantations, valleys, waterfalls, and volcanoes."

Sand. Brown sand, golden sand, white sand, black sand, gray sand, pink sand. Multicolored sands populate the beaches.

Water. Blue, azure, cerulean, aquamarine, turquoise. Roll out the Red Carpet for H2O.

Sky: Pastel blue, bluish-blue, bluish-white. Amazing gazing.

Sun: Lemon, daffodil, banana. Just the right temperature to warm the bones.

Close your eyes. Imagine cozy and cool hues and paint a palette in your mind of a tropical landscape. Hold a prism up to the sunlight and focus on the spectrum of colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Envision relaxing coastal colors—a soothing sauce for the soul.

Your favorite hat and sunglasses shade the eyes. Set your sun lounger at the outer edge. Feel your toes dig into the granules of crushed shells. A gentle breeze tickles the skin. Listen to the watery waves prance and play. Contemplate or meditate. Wonder or ponder. Or just be by the sea. Empty the messy muddle from your mind. Massage a beach balm into your brain. Make airy memories.

Sip an icy beverage. Bite into raspberry, passion fruit, or sapodilla. Invite a coconut gizzarda to your mouth



party—a pastry filled with a mixture of coconut, sugar, nutmeg and vanilla. Take a dip or a dunk in nature's salty pool. Ahhh!

No hassle—build a sandcastle. No hurry or scurry.

For dining, partake in Caribbean cookery. Ocean fishes in dishes. Ackee and saltfish. Cactus, chayote, and green-apple salad. Conch chowder. Beach cuisine—mambo for the mouth and a tango for the taste buds. □



If there's heaven for me, I'm sure it has a beach attached to it.
 —Jimmy Buffett



• Join the Players' Club and WIN UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY — Guaranteed! •

SUPER
B I N G O
SATURDAY!

SUNDAY FUNDAY
B I N G O

Fun 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!

\$6 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

Over \$1,000 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Subway | Juan Valdez Café | Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar | TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe
WE'R CUBA | Bijoux Terner Boutique | R-Glass | Curated Lab
Hungry Piranha | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | The Collectables

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH —Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador and Emerald Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Charles and Linda Warsaw together with Alyse and Mitchell Reiffman. It was a very special day because honoring guests who have been coming to Aruba for more than 35 years is incredibly rare!

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of The Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



• Join the Players' Club and **WIN UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY** — Guaranteed! •

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra T-Shirt
when you earn **250 Slot Points** on Sunday
with your **Players' Club card!**



THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Subway | Juan Valdez Café | Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar | TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe
WE'R CUBA | Bijoux Terner Boutique | R-Glass | Curated Lab
Hungry Piranha | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | The Collectables

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory.

Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from

Leen van de Ponselee, from Antwerp, Belgium. She wrote:

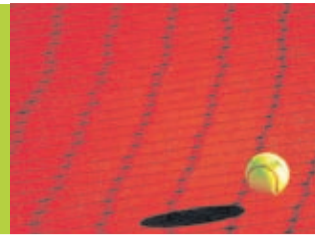
*Aruba to me is...
Feeling coming Home!*

"This is my 7th time in Aruba the last 5 years... we very like the sunny happy island with the great kindly people, we like also the fauna and flora on land and in the sea.

We are from Belgium, were the weather is most of the time grey, so we feel like coming home here with the great sun" ☐



SPORTS



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, left, and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, right, prepare to enter during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

All-Star: 10 things to know about the weekend

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — With All-Star festivities set to officially begin Friday, here are 10 things to know going into the weekend:

BACK TO CHARLOTTE

Charlotte hosted NBA All-Star weekend in 1991, and now gets it back a second time to join 14 other cities that can say it hosted the league's showcase mid-season event on multiple occasions.

Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle, St. Louis, Los Angeles and the L.A. suburb of Inglewood, California, are the other previous multi-hosting All-Star cities.

The Bay Area, the Detroit area and the Dallas area are also two-time hosts, though never technically twice in the same city.

LEBRON'S RECORDS

LeBron James now has the record for most All-Star captaincies: Two.

Continued on Page 22



JB Holmes leads Genesis Open after rain-delayed opening

J.B. Holmes hits his second shot on the third hole as first round play continues during the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

Associated Press
Page 18

Holmes aces his way to 1st-round lead at Riviera

By DOUG FERGUSON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a round where Tiger Woods kept missing short putts, J.B. Holmes took the lead because of a tee shot that needed no putting at all. Holmes made a hole-in-one with an 8-iron on the par-3 sixth hole, followed with a birdie and wound up with an 8-under 63 for a one-shot lead over Jordan Spieth when the first round finally ended Friday.

"It was awesome to see that," Holmes said about his ace.

The ball landed well behind the pin on the left side of the bunker and spun back some 20 feet on the rain-soaked greens of Riviera.

"Hit it exactly how I wanted it and it went in," Holmes said. "It looked good the whole time."

Spieth first was set to tee off at 7:22 a.m. Thursday until the round was scrapped after his opening tee shot on No. 10 and eventually began anew seven hours later because of the rain.

He played six holes Friday morning to complete a bogey-free round of 64.

Woods didn't start his 10th appearance at Riviera as a pro until Friday morning, and while he got off to a rough start with a pair of three-putt bogeys, he answered with four straight birdies around the turn.

But then he three-putted from long range on the 12th. The real blow was on the par-5 17th, where he missed a 20-foot birdie putt and then his 30-inch par putt missed the hole.

All four bogeys were from



J.B. Holmes hits his tee shot on the fourth hole as first round play continues during the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

three-putts.

"I hit it well and putted awful," Woods said. "Four three-putts is ridiculous."

Justin Thomas and Adam Scott, whose lone victory at Riviera came in 2005 over 36 holes because of

the rain, were in the group at 66. Jimmy Walker shot 67, as did Bill Haas, back at Riviera after he was involved in a fatal car crash last year.

Everyone will face a long day before the end of the

week.

The plan was to make the cut Saturday afternoon, play until dark and then try to wrap up on Sunday. Two years ago, Dustin Johnson had to play 36 holes on Sunday.

Spieth took advantage of the restart on Thursday. His opening shot on the par-4 10th hit the cart path twice and went into shin-high grass so thick that it would have been hard work just to get it out. The round was scrapped and he returned for a routine par.

He made the rest look easy except for the 13th hole, where he hooked his tee shot into a eucalyptus tree, played a slice on the outer side of the trees and got up-and-down for par.

"It was probably better than any of the birdies," he said.

He holed two chips for birdie, one of them on the toughest hole at Riviera on No. 12, birdied all three of the par 5s and made a pair of birdie putts from about 10 feet when he returned Friday morning.

He said those six holes were the best the putter has felt in some time. "I was able to kind of figure out a way to feel some freedom in the stroke and I was able to roll a couple of those in," he said.

Woods is the tournament host with his foundation running the event he first played in 1992 as a 16-year-old amateur. Next year, the tournament gets elevated status on par with the Memorial (Jack Nicklaus) and Arnold Palmer Invitational by offering a three-year exemption to the winners, getting a 120-man field and offering \$9.3 million in prize money.

But the course has never been kind to him. Riviera is where Woods has played the most times as a pro (9) without ever winning. □

Sandy Lyle, Stephen Ames share PGA Tour Champions lead

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Playing partners Sandy Lyle and Stephen Ames matched the course record at 8-under 63 to share the first-round lead Friday in the PGA Tour Champions' Chubb Classic.

Lyle topped a leaderboard for the first time in 155 career starts on the 50-and-over tour. The 61-year-old Scot won the 1985 British Open and 1988 Masters.

"Surprising, I just kept knocking some wedges quite close and never really put the putter under pressure," Lyle said. "Today was one of the good days and I might even have a few beers at the bar before I go and drive home."

Ames had a hole-in-one with a 9-iron on the 141-yard 12th hole at The Classics at Lely Resort. He won the 2017 Mitsubishi

Electric Classic for his lone senior title.

"The course is there for the taking," Ames said. "It's soft out there and the pins are somewhat accessible. Kept the ball in play and made the most of the opportunities when they arose. ... You've got to keep your foot down on the pedal here because the golf course is so easy and soft, they're going

to be going at every flag basically out here."

Jay Haas, at 65 years old, bettered his age for the first time on the tour with a 64. "I've missed by one for the last six years," Haas said. "I shot 60 at the Schwab Cup at Desert Mountain when I was 59, and I shot a 61 somewhere when I was 60, and a 62 when I was 61." Dudley Hart, Glen Day, Ken Tanigawa, Dan Olsen and

Kent Jones shot 65.

Steve Stricker opened with a 67. Bernhard Langer, the Oasis Championship winner last week near his home in Boca Raton, had a 68. The 61-year-old German star won the event in 2011, 2013 and 2016. Hale Irwin, at 73 years old, bettered his age for the 40th time on the tour, shooting a 70. He won the tournament in 1997 and 2002. □

Kaepernick, Eric Reid settle collusion grievances with NFL

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With a public hearing looming and the threat of owners and league officials facing depositions, the NFL settled collusion cases brought by Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid.

The league, about to celebrate its 100th season, faced criticism from all sides thanks to the protest movement started by Kaepernick. Many Kaepernick supporters wanted to see him back on the field, while other fans said they wouldn't watch if the league allowed players to protest during the national anthem.

The league and Kaepernick's lawyer sent out statements Friday saying that "the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances" and that a confidentiality agreement would prevent either side from commenting further. It remains unclear if the NFL admitted wrongdoing or how much money Reid, Kaepernick or others may have received. Considering the lost salary both players claimed and legal costs, the settlement could have climbed into the tens of millions of dollars.

"For the past several months, counsel for Mr. Kaepernick and Mr. Reid have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the NFL," the league statement said. "As a result of those discussions, the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances. The resolution of this matter is subject to a confidentiality agreement so there will be no further comment by any party."

Kaepernick's lawyer Mark Geragos tweeted a similar

statement.

The protests slowed down this season, as the NFL made contributions to organizations chosen by players and promised more attention to social justice issues. But the controversy reignited every time there was a development in the case.

A hearing was scheduled for later this month.

Kaepernick and Reid filed collusion grievances against the league, saying they were blacklisted because of protests during the national anthem at games. Kaepernick has not played in the league since 2016, while Reid missed three games last season before signing with Carolina. Kaepernick contended the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams.

While the players seemed intent on pursuing the cases, the league might not have been eager for those deposed — including Commissioner Roger Goodell and several owners and league executives — to appear. Still, for the players to prove collusion is a mighty challenge because, according to the 2011 labor agreement between the union and league, a "club, its employees or agents" must have "entered into an agreement" to limit contract offers.

Kaepernick filed his grievance in August 2017. Arbitrator Stephen B. Burbank sent it to trial, denying the league's request to throw out the former 49ers quarterback's claims. Burbank's decision meant there was enough evidence of collusion to keep the grievances going.

A wave of protests by NFL players began in 2016 after Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem to call attention to police brutality and racial inequality. The protests grew into one of the most polarizing issues in sports, with President Donald Trump loudly urging the league to suspend or fire players who demonstrate during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

While he has been away from the playing field, Kaepernick has become an advocate for battling social and racial injustice. On Thursday, a person with knowledge of the conversations told the AP that Kaepernick turned down a chance to join the fledgling Alliance of American Football, seeking \$20 million or more from the upstart league that pays its players \$225,000 over three seasons.

Safety Reid recently resigned with the Panthers for three years and more than \$22 million. He noted then that he got "fair market value" after making just \$1.69 million last season from the Panthers.

"If anything, it proves my point from last year," Reid said. "I didn't sign until the (fourth) week and did for almost the league minimum. And this year I signed a more substantial contract. And nothing has changed. I'm still the same player." Officials with the players union said Friday afternoon that they had just learned of the settlement and had no details.

"We continuously supported Colin and Eric from the start of their protests, participated with their lawyers throughout their legal proceedings and were prepared to participate in the upcoming trial in pursuit of both truth and justice for what we believe the NFL and its clubs did to them," the NFLPA said in statement. "We are glad that Eric has earned a job and a new contract, we continue to hope that Colin gets his opportunity as well." □



In this Sept. 12, 2016, file photo, San Francisco 49ers safety Eric Reid (35) and quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) kneel during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams, in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

**KARAOKE at
BUGALOE**
TODAY AT 8.30 - 11.30PM



**SPARE RIBS SPECIAL:
ONLY \$13
(AFTER 5PM)**



BUGALOE
Beach Bar and Grill

Located at De Palm Pier
between the Hilton Resort and Riu Hotel
T: (+297) 586-2233 | info@bugaloe.com
www.Bugaloe.com



NASCAR moving away from restrictor plates, not pack racing



Martin Truex Jr. (19), Denny Hamlin (11), Kevin Harvick (4), Austin Dillon (3), Clint Bowyer (14), Erik Jones (20), Chase Elliott (9), Daniel Suarez (41), Ryan Newman (6), Alex Bowman (88) and Aric Almirola (10) are involved in a multi-car pileup during the NASCAR Clash auto race at Daytona International Speedway Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

By **MARK LONG**
AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— There has been a string of goodbyes at Daytona International Speedway in recent years, from Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart to Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Danica Patrick.

There is another one on tap Sunday: The Daytona 500 will be the final NASCAR race for restrictor plates, the horsepower-sapping devices reduce speed and were intended to improve safety at the nation's fastest tracks.

Don't expect a big send-off for the oft-maligned part, which has been in use since 1988. NASCAR is merely switching to tapered spacers at every track to keep speeds in check.

"No matter what you call it, you're still restricting the air flow to the engine," two-time Daytona 500 winner and 1988 NASCAR cham-

pion Bill Elliott said. "It's just a different flavor, a different way of putting it. I guess it's all about how you word things these days."

Plate racing has drawn plenty of criticism over the years, mostly from drivers and team owners who prefer cars not be bunched together in two- and three-wide packs at nearly 200 mph and where the slightest contact creates a chain reaction and often mangles a bunch of \$300,000 cars. During this month's Speedweeks, though, the package has created less-than-ideal, single-file racing that has some wondering what the 61st running of "The Great American Race" will look like.

NASCAR implemented the use of restrictor plates at Daytona International Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway as a safety measure more than three decades ago. The hope

was that slower cars would be less likely to go airborne following Bobby Allison's crash at Talladega in May 1987. His car sailed into the catch-fence, spewing debris into the stands.

That same year, Elliott set qualifying records at both tracks, reaching 210.364 mph at Daytona and 212.809 at Talladega. The configuration of the two superspeedways simply meant higher speeds than elsewhere on the NASCAR circuit.

Slowing down the cars was the quick and easy fix.

"I probably contributed to restrictor plates quite a bit," Elliott said. "If I hadn't done it, somebody else would have come along and done it. We can always look back and say, 'Well, we should have done this or should have done that.' Here we are 32 years later, and if they would have left the engines unrestricted,

guys would be doing 230-plus now."

Drivers expect little effect from the switch, even though the parts are distinctly different.

Restrictor plates are an eighth of an inch, so thin that any imperfection — even a scratch — can create a disparity.

Tapered spacers are precisely machined and provide much more even air distribution, essentially making them more efficient.

"I don't think there will be a lot of change," said 2012 NASCAR champion Brad Keselowski, who has won four of the last 20 races at Daytona and Talladega. "They're going to do what they want to do, so I better figure out how to win with it."

Tapered spacers have been used in NASCAR's Cup Series since 2015, when a 1.170-inch aluminum block reduced horse-

power from about 850 to approximately 725 at several tracks.

The 2019 rules package mandates those same-sized spacers at all tracks less than 1.33 miles. A 0.922-inch spacer will be used at all oval tracks 1.33 miles and above, which will decrease engine horsepower to about 550. That includes Daytona and Talladega, but won't take effect until after Sunday's season opener.

NASCAR's expectation is that reducing horsepower — in connection with a larger spoiler that creates more downforce — will slow the cars down, lead to more stability for drivers and produce tighter racing.

"I totally expect to crash more cars," defending series champion Joey Logano said. "As cars are closer and drivers are more aggressive, a mistake will create a bigger crash. We can't get away from it. ... You know how it is when you're on the highway and they check up right in front of you. You can't stop quick enough and you're only going 70, you know? Try going 180. Game changes a little bit.

"So I assume there will be more crashes. I assume we're all going to tear more stuff up this year. And usually when there's more crashes, there's more conflict. So it will be interesting. Hang on." All of it is designed to give fans what they want: better, more dramatic races — much like they've had at Daytona and Talladega for 30-plus years. "Nobody knows exactly what to expect," Stewart-Haas Racing team co-owner Tony Stewart said. "Having a restrictor-plate package, open package, this new package, we're all excited to see what it produces. At the end of the day, it's all about making the racing more exciting for the fans, re-engaging the fans in the sport. "I think restrictor-plate racing at Daytona and Talladega is always going to be an element of its own that really is separate from what you see the rest of the season." □

Ovechkin scores NHL-leading 39th as Capitals beat Sharks 5-1

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 39th goal, T.J. Oshie had two goals and an assist, and the Washington Capitals beat the San Jose Sharks 5-1 on Thursday night.

Jakub Vrana and Tom Wilson each had a goal and an assist, and Nicklas Backstrom had two assists for Washington. Braden Holtby stopped 24 shots, and Ovechkin added an assist as the Capitals won for the fifth time in seven games after dropping seven straight. San Jose ended a six-game winning streak, which began with a 7-6 overtime win at Washington on Jan. 22. Sharks goalie Martin Jones turned back 18 shots.

The Sharks took an early lead on Kevin Labanc's 11th goal at 2:06 of the first period, but it was all Washington after that.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Auston Matthews scored two goals, including the 100th of his career, to lead Toronto over Vegas.

The Maple Leafs, who improved to 36-18-3 this season and 19-7-2 on the road, are 15-7-0 against the Western Conference and 9-2-0 against Pacific Division opponents this season.

Morgan Rielly scored his fifth game-winner when his shot made its way through traffic to beat Marc-Andre Fleury and put Toronto ahead 4-3 at the midway point of the third period.

Vegas, meanwhile, has lost three in a row and a franchise-record five straight at T-Mobile Arena, including the first three of a four-game homestand.

ISLANDERS 3, BLUE JACKETS 0

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Thomas Greiss stopped 31 shots for his fourth shutout of the season and New York beat Columbus.

Casey Cizikas scored twice on breakaways and Josh Bailey also had a goal for the Islanders, who cruised to their fifth win in the last

seven games.

Greiss was outstanding in getting his 12th career shut-out and the Islanders defenders showed why they are tops in the NHL in keeping opponents' pucks out of their net. New York, which began the night three points ahead of Washington atop the Metropolitan Division, snapped the Blue Jackets' four-game win streak.

Sergei Bobrovsky had 24 saves for the Blue Jackets, who is tied with Pittsburgh with 67 points but holds third place in the Metropolitan due to a game in hand. The game was a let-down for Columbus, which seemed to have momentum after shutting out the Capitals by the same score on Tuesday.

LIGHTNING 6, STARS 0

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Steven Stamkos had two goals and an assist, Nikita Kucherov added a goal and three assists, and Tampa Bay beat Dallas.

Tyler Johnson, Mikhail Sergachev and Alex Killorn also scored to help the Lightning improve to 6-0-2 in the last eight games and reach 90 points in 58 games this season. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 32 shots for his fifth shutout of the season and 17th of his career to tie Ben Bishop for most in team history.

Dallas goalie Anton Khudobin was pulled from the game twice, allowing five goals on 21 shots. Landon Bow finished with four saves in 27:07 of ice time for Dallas, which fell to 1-2-1 in the past four games.

BLACKHAWKS 5, DEVILS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Kane scored his 34th goal and added two assists to lead Chicago over New Jersey for its eighth victory in nine games.

Brandon Saad and Artem Anisimov each had a goal and an assist, and Jonathan Toews and Drake Caggiula also scored for the Blackhawks. Cam Ward stopped 41 shots.

Damon Severson and Travis Zajac scored to give the

Devils a 2-0 lead with a little more than three minutes left in the first period before the Blackhawks took over. New Jersey has lost two straight and five of its last six.

Devils goalie Cory Schneider finished with 31 saves to extend his regular-season winless streak to 24 games. He is now 0-17-4 since his last win Dec. 27, 2017.

BLUES 4, COYOTES 0

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Jordan Binnington matched a franchise rookie record with his seventh straight victory, Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice and St. Louis stretched its longest winning streak in 18 years to eight games.

Joel Edmundson scored early in the first and had an assist on Tarasenko's goal late in the period. Tarasenko put the Blues up 3-0 late in the second period with a power-play goal, giving him nine goals and eight assists during a career-high 10-game points streak.

Robert Bortuzzo scored his second goal of the third period for the Blues, who have their longest winning streak since 2000-01. St. Louis is 14-4-1 in 2019, including 9-2-1 on the road. Binnington made 21 saves.

CANUCKS 4, KINGS 3, SO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elias Pettersson and Brock Boeser scored in a shootout after Adam Gaudette tied it with 1:38 remaining in the third period to lift Vancouver.

Pettersson and Boeser also scored in regulation for the Canucks, who had lost four straight road games. Jacob Markstrom made 35 saves through overtime, before allowing a shootout goal to Ilya Kovalchuk and then stopping Anze Kopitar and Adrian Kempe.

Alec Martinez had a goal and an assist for the Kings, who had not played at home since Jan. 21 because of the All-Star Game, bye week and a six-game road trip while Staples Center hosted the Grammys. Jonathan Quick made 24



Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin (8) moves the puck past San Jose Sharks' Joe Thornton, left, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, in San Jose, Calif. Associated Press

saves.

PANTHERS 3, FLAMES 2, SO

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Vincent Trocheck scored in the third round of the shootout to lift Florida over Calgary.

Elias Lindholm scored for Calgary late in the third period to extend the game, but Matthew Tkachuk missed in the third round of the shootout with a chance to do the same.

Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist, and Evgenii Dadonov scored for Florida. Mark Jankowski also had a goal for the Flames, who lost their fourth straight. Florida goalie James Reimer, pulled to start the third period in Sunday's 5-2 loss to Tampa Bay, stopped 41 shots. Mike Smith had 30 saves and lost his third straight.

AVALANCHE 4, JETS 1

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Gabriel Landeskog scored his team-leading 30th goal of the season as Colorado beat Winnipeg to snap its season-high eight-game losing streak.

Dominic Toninato got his first NHL goal, and J.T. Compher and Sven Andrighetto also scored for the Avalanche, who were 0-5-3 during their skid. Matt Nieto had two assists, and

Semyon Varlamov stopped 24 shots.

Brandon Tanev scored his career-high 12th goal of the season for Winnipeg, which lost in regulation at home for the first time in 10 games (8-1-1). Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves.

PREDATORS 3, CANADIENS 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Pekka Rinne made 34 saves, Viktor Arvidsson scored and Nashville beat Montreal.

Ryan Hartman and Brian Boyle also had the goals for Nashville, which snapped a three-game skid.

Tomas Tatar scored and Carey Price made 35 saves for Montreal, which has lost consecutive games for the first time since early January.

RED WINGS 3, SENATORS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Andreas Athanasiou scored twice, including a penalty shot, and Jimmy Howard made 40 saves in his 500th game to lead Detroit over Ottawa.

Frans Nielsen scored to break a 2-2 tie late in the second period.

Brady Tkachuk and Matt Duchene scored for Ottawa, and Anders Nilsson stopped 26 shots. □

ALL-STAR

Continued from Page 17

He and Stephen Curry had the jobs last year when the captain's format was first introduced to the All-Star weekend, and he and Giannis Antetokounmpo have the jobs this year.

But James' records revolving around this game hardly stop there.

By starting on Sunday, James will tie Kobe Bryant with 15 starts in the All-Star Game. James will also extend his record of consecutive starts, which will also rise to 15. Some of the other All-Star records James already holds include total points (343), field goals (141) and 3-pointers (35).

And by playing two minutes, James will increase his All-Star total in that stat to 416 — one more than Bryant for No. 2 on the all-time list. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has played the most All-Star minutes, 449.

FOULING OUT

Bold prediction: No one will foul out on Sunday.

The last player to foul out of an All-Star Game was Hakeem Olajuwon in 1987. Chris Paul was the most recent to come close, when he was whistled for five fouls in the 2008 game.

There have been only 14 instances of someone fouling out of an All-Star Game. Rick Barry and Bob Cousy each fouled out twice; 10 others, including Olajuwon, have done so once.

MVPs AT HOME

Kemba Walker, the lone Charlotte player in this year's All-Star Game, has suggested that he's hoping he can wow the home crowd with an MVP-worthy performance.

There's a history of that sort of thing happening. There have been 14 players who

have won All-Star MVP honors in their home cities, spanning a total of 15 games.

The list of hometown All-Star MVPs: Anthony Davis (New Orleans, 2017), Kobe Bryant (Los Angeles, 2011), Shaquille O'Neal (Phoenix, 2009 and Los Angeles, 2004), Karl Malone and John Stockton (Utah, 1993), Michael Jordan (Chicago, 1988), Tom Chambers (Seattle, 1987), Jerry West (Los Angeles, 1972), Rick Barry (the San Francisco area, 1967), Adrian Smith (Cincinnati, 1966), Bob Pettit (St. Louis, 1958 and 1962), Wilt Chamberlain (Philadelphia, 1960), Bob Cousy (Boston, 1957) and Ed Macauley (Boston, 1951).

AGE MARK

Assuming he plays, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki — one of the special additions to the rosters by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who also added Miami's Dwyane Wade to the list — will become the second 40-something to appear in the All-Star Game. Nowitzki is 40; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played in the game when he was 40 and 41.

Michael Jordan almost pulled off the feat; he was eight days shy of turning 40 when he last played in the All-Star Game in 2003. Jordan, now the owner of the Charlotte Hornets and the unofficial host of the weekend, will turn 56 on Sunday. Wade, also assuming he gets into the game, will become the 12th player to be an All-Star at 37 or older. Wade turned 37 last month.

HEROES

Jason Weinmann and James Shaw Jr. might not be "celebrities," at least not in the classic sense.

But the NBA rightly believes they should be celebrated.



Golden State Warriors general manager Bob Myers, third from left, presents All-Star jerseys to Klay Thompson (11), Stephen Curry (30) and Kevin Durant (35) prior to an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Weinmann and Shaw were invited to play in Friday's All-Star Celebrity Game to commemorate heroic acts. Weinmann, a retired Marine, used a military transport vehicle — which he bought at a government auction years ago — during Hurricane Florence last September to help rescue flood victims in North Carolina and bring them to safety. Shaw disarmed a man who had opened fire at a Waffle House restaurant near Nashville last April and has been heralded as a life-saving hero since for wresting the AR-15 out of the alleged shooter's hands by the barrel.

G LEAGUE FIRST

Khris Middleton of the Milwaukee Bucks is the first member of a new club.

He's the first G League alum to become an NBA All-Star. Middleton spent a short time during the 2012-13 season in the G League, before blossoming into one

of the league's best players and a key to Milwaukee going into the break with an NBA-best 43-14 record. There will be plenty of G League graduates participating on All-Star Saturday as well — Middleton, Seth Curry, Danny Green and Joe Harris are all slated to be in the 3-point contest.

CASH MATTERS

There is some money at stake during All-Star Saturday events, and everybody gets something. Everyone in the dunk contest will receive at least \$20,000, everyone in the skills challenge gets at least \$15,000 and all participants in the 3-point shootout take home at least \$10,000. From there, prize money varies by finish — the skills challenge winner gets \$55,000, the 3-point shootout champion wins \$60,000 and the dunk contest winner takes home \$105,000.

In all, the Saturday night participants will split

\$610,000.

EASTBOUND

This All-Star weekend is the first of four straight in Eastern Conference cities. Chicago gets it next year, Indianapolis in 2021 and Cleveland in 2022. The site for the 2023 game remains unknown; Salt Lake City and Sacramento are two sites often mentioned as candidates for that year, and Orlando is a likely suitor for the 2024 game.

THE REFS

Sunday's All-Star Game will be officiated by Scott Foster, Curtis Blair and David Guthrie. It's a home game of sorts for Guthrie, who resides in Charlotte.

Foster worked the 2010 All-Star Game in Dallas. It's the first All-Star Game for Blair and Guthrie. The Friday and Saturday events will be worked by a crew of newer refs — third-year official Aaron Smith and fourth-year officials Mitchell Ervin and Gediminas Petraitis. □

AP source: Severino, Yanks agree to \$40M, 4-year contract

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Right-hander Luis Severino avoided an arbitration hearing with the New York Yankees, agreeing Friday to a \$40 million, four-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

Severino's deal includes a

team option for 2023 that could make the agreement worth \$52.25 million for five seasons. If the option is not exercised, Severino would be eligible for free agency after the 2022 season.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement is subject to a successful physical.

Severino gets a \$2 million signing bonus, \$4 million in 2019, \$10 million in 2020, \$10.5 million in 2021 and \$11 million in 2022. The team option is for \$15 million with a \$2.75 million buyout.

He had been scheduled for the final salary arbitration hearing of the year on Friday morning at St. Petersburg, Florida. Severino

had asked for a raise from \$604,975 to \$5.25 million in his first season of arbitration eligibility and the Yankees had offered \$4.4 million.

Severino has a 41-25 career record with a 3.51 ERA and falls two days of service time short of having been eligible for free agency after 2021. He was set back when he struggled in 2016

and was sent to the minor leagues several times.

A right-hander who turns 25 next Wednesday, Severino is a two-time All-Star. He went 19-8 with a 3.39 ERA last year, winning 14 of his first 16 decisions but then five of his last 11. He came out early in both of his post-season starts, going 0-1 in seven innings. □

Kristoffersen topples Hirscher to win giant slalom at worlds

By STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Norwegian skiing is in safe hands, even with its beloved king now in retirement.

Henrik Kristoffersen gave Norway its second individual gold medal of the world championships by toppling an under-the-weather Marcel Hirscher to win the giant slalom on Friday.

With Kjetil Jansrud also victorious in the downhill last week, Norway appears in great shape heading into the post-Aksel Lund Svindal era.

Svindal signed off his illustrious career with a silver medal behind Jansrud in the downhill, and said he was leaving behind a strong generation of Norwegian skiing talent.

Kristoffersen is at the forefront of that — especially now that he has ended his long wait for a medal at a world championship.

The 24-year-old Kristoffersen had finished fourth in his last three races at the worlds — the giant slalom and slalom in 2017 and the slalom in 2015 — and headed into his second run



Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen celebrates after winning the men's giant slalom, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

of the GS in third place behind leader Alexis Pinturault and Hirscher, the favorite and one of skiing's all-time greats.

However, Kristoffersen produced an aggressive run under the lights, his speed and flow particularly apparent in the bottom section, to win by 0.20 seconds

over Hirscher. Pinturault won the bronze medal, 0.42 seconds back.

"It was about time to get a medal," said Kristoffersen, who wasn't necessarily expecting it to come in GS. Kristoffersen's last win in the discipline came at Meribel in 2015 and he has been consistently behind

Hirscher, the seven-time overall World Cup winner and defending Olympic and world GS champion. He finished second to Hirscher at last year's Olympics in Pyeongchang. Kristoffersen was without a win in any discipline for a year but said he gained confidence from the

course being doused with salt to maintain the snow surface amid unseasonably warm weather. The temperature in Are for the first leg was 8 C (46 F).

"There's no one that skis on salt as much as Norwegians do," he said. "Even though I haven't trained on salt in GS in a long, long time, I have it from childhood."

Hirscher's preparations for the race were affected by a bout of flu that kept him in bed for much of the past two days. He acknowledged after the race that the likelihood of him lining up on the starting gate wasn't high on Thursday.

"Normally," Hirscher said, "if you have regular work on those days, you normally tell your boss I'm done for the day."

Yet he managed to be only 0.10 seconds behind Pinturault after an error-free first run, keeping Hirscher on course for a record-tying seventh gold medal at the worlds. But he went wide at two gates in the top section of his second run, causing him to lose 0.41 seconds on Kristoffersen in the middle section. □

Judge: Hernandez's child can't sue NFL over brain disease

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The 6-year-old daughter of the late NFL player Aaron Hernandez missed a 2014 deadline to opt out of the league's concussion settlement and can't separately pursue a \$20 million suit over his diagnosis of a degenerative brain disease, a judge ruled.

Yet Hernandez's death in 2017 came too late for his family to seek up to \$4 million in compensation for suicides related to chronic traumatic encephalopathy under the class action settlement.

Hernandez spent three years with the New England Patriots before his 2013 arrest on the first of three homicide charges. The Patriots terminated his \$40 million contract, and he never returned to the NFL.

U.S. District Judge Anita Brody in Philadelphia — where lawsuits were consolidated alleging the NFL hid what it knew about the risks of concussion injuries — ruled Thursday that he was effectively retired and therefore, along with his family, bound by the class action settlement for NFL retirees. Under terms of the concussion settlement, the judge said, "The crux of the issue is whether Hernandez was 'seeking active employment' as an NFL football player as of July 7, 2014. He was not. On this date, Hernandez had been imprisoned — without bail — for nearly a year."

Family lawyer Brad Sohn argued that Hernandez had not retired but hoped to be exonerated and return to the league. His daughter, Sohn said, should therefore be able to pursue her "loss



In this Jan. 26, 2012, file photo, New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez speaks to reporters at his locker at the NFL football stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

of consortium" lawsuit in her home state of Massachusetts.

"No matter what anybody wants to say about Aaron Hernandez, she will have to live with the fact that she doesn't have a parent for the rest of her life," Sohn

said Friday. "It remains our position that the NFL is responsible for the damages that she has because of his CTE."

Hernandez was convicted in the first homicide case in 2015 but acquitted of an unrelated double homi-

cide in April 2017. He took his life days later in prison. His conviction was later overturned because he died before exhausting his appeals.

Doctors later found the 27-year-old Hernandez had advanced CTE on a level not previously seen in someone that young.

Sohn, in a brief in the case, called Hernandez "a generational talent" but said he "entered the NFL in 2010, even though (and amidst everyone's full knowledge that) he had been investigated for ties to a brutal 2007 shooting. The NFL paid no mind to this and let him play." The daughter involved in the lawsuit is the child of Hernandez's fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins.

"A.H., a child, committed no crime nor asked to be born into such tragic circumstances," Sohn wrote. □

Amazon's stormy week will blow over, but debris will stay

By **RACHEL LERMAN** and **MAE ANDERSON**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It's been a complicated few weeks for Amazon, what with its abrupt pullout from a massive New York City development, extortion claims related to intimate photos taken by its founder Jeff Bezos and increasing antitrust scrutiny in Europe. For now, these events seem unlikely to pose much threat to Amazon's brand or business. But they're indicative of the mounting challenges the e-commerce giant faces as it grows ever larger and more dominant.

Amazon's turn in the spotlight is a natural consequence of its prominence in retail, entertainment and internet infrastructure, Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said. "As you get bigger and more successful, you have more of a target on your back," he said. Amazon did not return a request for comment Thursday. Few analysts believe Thursday's reversal in New York or the previous week's dust-up with the publisher of the National Enquirer will have much impact on consumer enthusiasm for Amazon's broad product selection and services or its fast shipping. Bezos has accused the Enquirer of "extortion and blackmail" for threatening to disclose revealing personal photos



In this Jan. 29, 2018, file photo Jeff Bezos, the CEO and founder of Amazon.com, takes a walking tour of the Amazon Spheres in Seattle.

Associated Press

unless he ended his private investigation into how the tabloid obtained his private exchanges with his mistress. Investors don't appear particularly concerned that these issues will distract the hard-driving Bezos, who is also in the midst of a divorce — generally considered one of life's most stressful events. Even if Bezos were to find his attention otherwise occupied, Evercore ISI analyst Anthony DiClemente notes that the Amazon chief has a trusted senior leadership team in place. "That gives investors comfort," he said. Amazon shares have more than made up a brief drop

after Bezos made his public case against the Enquirer last week.

Public anger at tech companies has been growing for some time, but much of it has been focused on Facebook and other tech companies that collect vast amounts of personal user information for targeting online ads and other purposes.

Facebook's privacy issues have been particularly acute since they involve the company's core business, said Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication. Amazon isn't immune to the tech back-

lash. But Argenti said the company's popularity with consumers won't likely be affected by recent headlines.

"I'm not going to stop ordering my movies and packages from them, and I think that's the way most people will look at it," he said.

Longer-term issues, however, could present a more serious threat. Amazon's New York investment would have put 25,000 jobs in the Long Island City neighborhood of Queens, at a cost of nearly \$3 billion in tax breaks. Local activists called that a corporate giveaway, one made even less palatable by Amazon's

anti-union stance.

That grass-roots rebellion suggests that people are growing more skeptical of big tech companies, especially when government is cutting them special deals, said Blair Levin, a policy adviser to New Street Research and a former chief of staff to a Federal Communications Commission chairman.

"Time and time again, the public has seen promises made and reality is different," he said. "So they're going to be skeptical of Amazon. And it's across the board, not just Amazon."

Several European nations are also investigating Amazon's alleged anti-competitive activity. On Thursday, Austria's antitrust agency said it is reviewing complaints that the company is favoring its own products and discriminating against other sellers on its e-commerce site. German antitrust authorities and the European Commission are investigating Amazon for similar claims.

In the U.S., politicians are also speaking out against Amazon's practices, said Barry Lynn, executive director of Open Markets, an institution that studies corporate monopolies in the U.S. Lynn argues that Amazon is a monopoly that should be more heavily regulated by the government. □

Ex-Apple lawyer accused of profiting from confidential info

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — One of Apple's former top lawyers is facing accusations of brazenly breaking the company's insider trading rules that he helped draft, while profiting from stock sales and investments made after he received confidential information about Apple's finances. The allegations against Gene Levoff emerged in criminal and civil complaints filed Wednesday in a New Jersey federal court by the U.S. Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission.

Levoff, 45, realized gains and avoided losses totaling more than \$600,000 in illegal trades made periodically from 2011 to 2016, based on estimates provided in the documents.

Before Apple fired him last September, Levoff held various roles in Apple's corporate law department starting in 2008. Apple promoted him to senior director of corporate law in 2013 overseeing as many as 30 attorneys. He also had responsibility for drawing up company policies designed to prevent employees from violating federal laws that prohibit stock

market trading based on privileged information.

Levoff's alleged misconduct "was particularly egregious given his responsibility for implementing the company's insider trading compliance policy," said Antonia Chion, associate director for the SEC's enforcement division.

Kevin Marino, the attorney representing Levoff in the proceedings, said he is looking forward to fighting the allegations.

If he is convicted in the criminal case, Levoff faces a prison sentence of up to 20 years and a \$5 million fine.

Levoff broke the law repeatedly, the complaints allege, by leveraging his position on a special committee that reviewed key numbers contained in Apple's quarterly earnings reports before the results were publicly announced. His most brash move came in July 2015 when Apple was preparing to release its results for the April-June period of that year. As part of Apple's disclosure committee, Levoff received a July 10 preview showing that the company's sales of iPhones for the quarter had missed the targets set by Wall Street analysts

— a shortfall that typically causes Apple's stock to fall. Levoff then sold nearly all of his Apple holdings — more than 70,000 shares worth about \$10 million at the time — four days before the company released the results, according to the complaints. The day after those numbers came out, Apple's stock fell by 4 percent. That downturn lumped Apple's shareholders with collective losses of \$32 billion on paper, but Levoff avoided about \$345,000 in losses by selling shortly before the announcement, the government alleged. □

Double tap: Investors face taxes for funds that fell in 2018

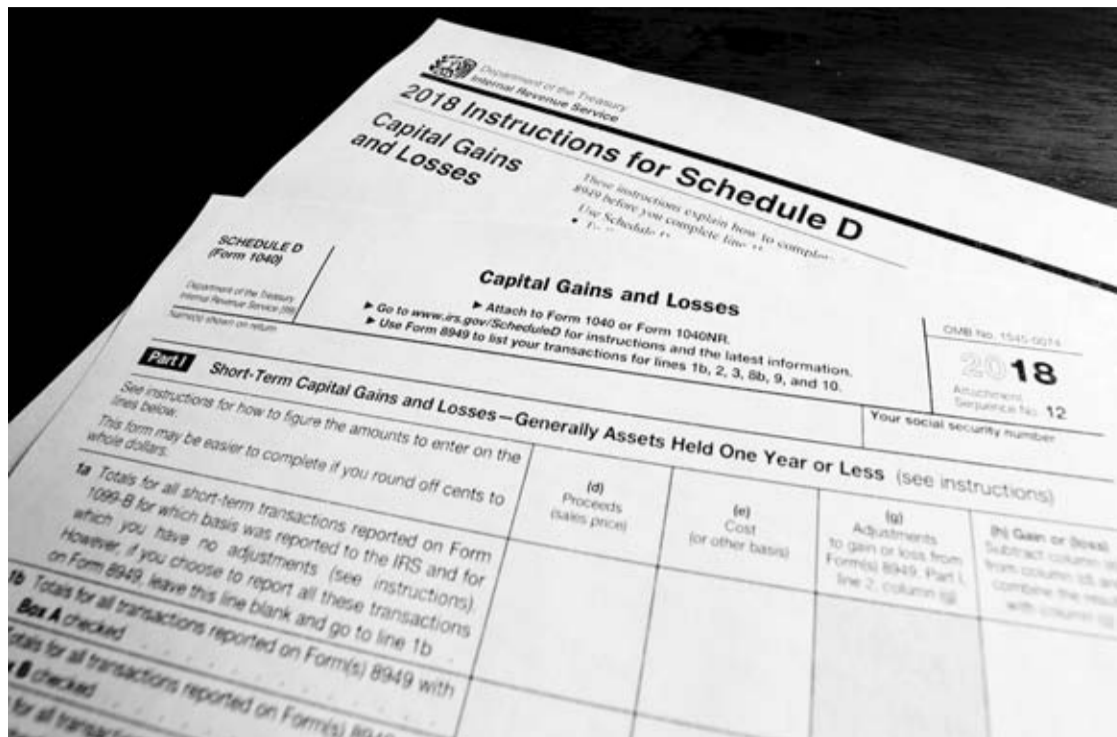
By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As if the worst year for stocks in nearly a decade weren't bad enough, many investors now have to pay a tax bill on top of it.

The headache for investors is a result of how mutual funds are structured and how many times the funds' managers bought and sold shares through 2018. Because of the way tax laws work, the majority of investors with a U.S. stock mutual fund or ETF received something called a "capital-gains distribution" late last year.

Investors holding funds in a tax-advantaged account, like a 401(k) or IRA, don't need to worry about it. But if they hold it in a taxable account, watch out. They'll owe taxes on it, due by this spring, and the rate could be as high as 40.8 percent in a few cases. And the last thing many investors want is to pay taxes on something



This Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019, in Zelenople, Pa., shows schedule D for form 1040 and instructions printed from the Internal Revenue Service web page that are used for 2018 U.S. federal tax returns.

Associated Press

that has already hurt them once: The most popular category of stock mutual fund lost 6.3 percent last year.

"The possible tax hit will add insult to injury," says Frank

Pape, director of consulting services at Russell Investments.

Investors can be on the hook for taxes even if they don't sell any shares of the fund themselves. That's

because fund managers have to tally up the gains they make each year from buying and selling stocks and bonds, and then pass them on to their investors as capital-gains distribu-

tions. Funds make these distributions to all shareholders who own the fund as of a certain date. This year, the average distribution has been worth 11 percent of the fund's net asset value, according to Russell. That's akin to a fund with a \$100 price tag paying out an \$11 distribution to shareholders, who are then left with \$89. Shareholders will owe taxes on that \$11, and the rate can range from zero for lower-income investors to nearly 41 percent for the highest-income taxpayers if the distributions are categorized as "short-term" gains. Not only are funds paying out higher distributions — Russell says the 11 percent average payout for this past year is up from 8 percent the year before — more funds are also giving them to their shareholders — 86 percent of all U.S. stock funds, up from 65 percent. □

Trade talk optimism pushes stocks higher in early trading

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Plans to extend key trade talks between the U.S. and China drove stocks broadly higher in early trading.

The early gains mark a turnaround after the market ended lower Thursday following a disappointing holiday sales report. The S&P 500 index had risen the prior four trading days.

China's government said negotiators plan to meet in Washington next week for more talks aimed at resolving the trade war between the world's largest economies. Two days of talks wrapped up Friday in Beijing and a March 2 deadline hangs over both sides.

The U.S. is set to impose more tariffs on Chinese goods after March 2, escalating a trade war that has already raised prices on materials and products for companies and consumers.

Bank, energy and materials stocks are showing the biggest gains. All 11 sectors in



An investor stands in front of private stock trading boards at a private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

the S&P 500 are higher. Corporate earnings continued rolling out the fourth-quarter reporting period nears an end. Newell Brands, which counts baby products among its Sharpie and Rubbermaid

items, plunged. Chipmaker Nvidia rose on strong profit results and a good forecast for the year.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 336 points, or 1.3 percent, to 25,775 as of 10:30

a.m. The S&P 500 index rose 0.9 percent and The Nasdaq composite gained 0.5 percent. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 0.9 percent.

DEERE IN HEADLIGHTS: Agricultural equipment maker

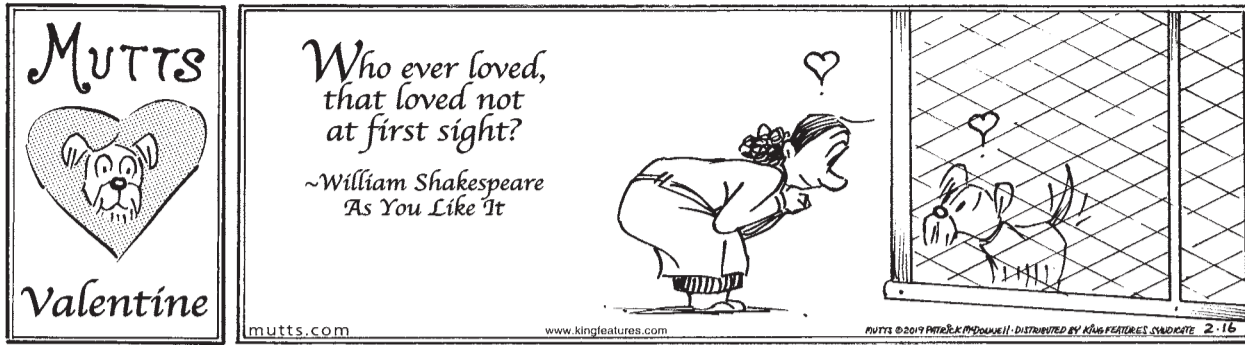
Deere warned that farmers are refraining from buying new equipment because of the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China.

The company gave investors a mixed fourth-quarter report, with profit falling short and revenue beating forecasts. It also said tariffs had discouraged customers such as farmers from buying tractors and other machinery, an indication of how the U.S.-China trade dispute has weighed on the manufacturing sector.

The stock was slightly lower. **WHEN THE CHIPS ARE UP:** Chipmaker Nvidia rose 2.5 percent following its strong fourth-quarter profit report. Despite a downturn in revenue, the company expects demand to increase as the year moves forward. Its forecast for the year beat Wall Street forecasts.

The company was hurt during the previous quarter by a plunge in demand from the cryptocurrency sector and lower gaming console sales. □

Mutts



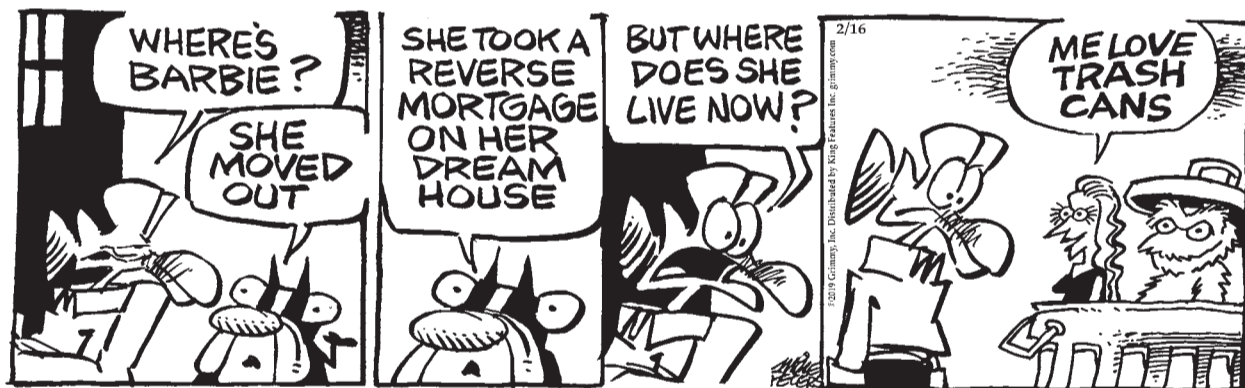
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7	3					
	4						9	
1		2						5
8		2	3					7
		4	7					
5	6	8						1
7			2					3
	2						5	
		1	8					

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/16

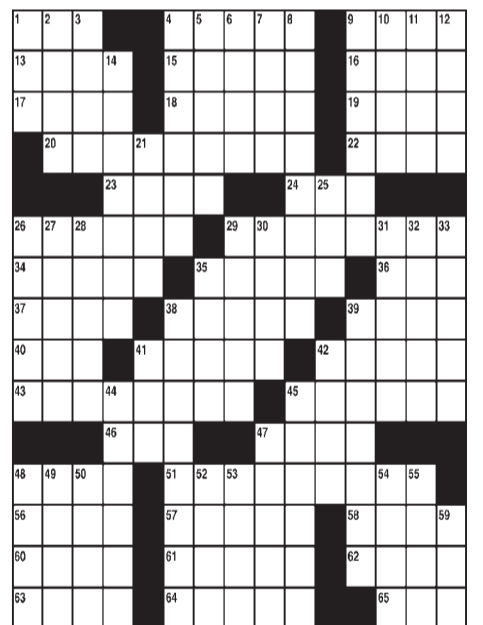
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	7	4	5	9	8	6	2	3
2	6	5	7	3	1	4	8	9
3	9	8	4	6	2	5	1	7
5	1	7	8	2	3	9	6	4
4	2	6	1	7	9	3	5	8
9	8	3	6	5	4	1	7	2
7	5	2	3	4	6	8	9	1
6	3	1	9	8	7	2	4	5
8	4	9	2	1	5	7	3	6

ACROSS

- 1 Gent
- 4 Swiftly
- 9 Extinct bird
- 13 Come __; find
- 15 Actress Lindsay
- 16 James __ Jones
- 17 " __ grip!"; advice to the hysterical
- 18 Depart
- 19 Oxford, for one
- 20 Certain calendar page
- 22 Baby dogs
- 23 Sty dwellers
- 24 Wet sticky stuff
- 26 Long step
- 29 Many Hewlett-Packard machines
- 34 Very small
- 35 Corn
- 36 Uncooked
- 37 __ out; chimed
- 38 Composure
- 39 In the past
- 40 Cool __ cucumber
- 41 Without companions
- 42 Attempted
- 43 New Orleans team
- 45 Flow back
- 46 2 months ago: abbr.
- 47 Whip
- 48 Golfer Mickelson
- 51 Helper
- 56 Mantilla fabric
- 57 Instruct
- 58 Highway
- 60 Go __; review
- 61 Spooky
- 62 Actress Patty
- 63 Ties the knot
- 64 Short one-act plays
- 65 Novel



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 2/16/19

5 Odes & sonnets

- 6 "Moby-Dick" protagonist
- 7 Give in
- 8 Invigorate
- 9 Tyrant
- 10 Waikiki Beach's island
- 11 Word attached to gum or rain
- 12 Bullring shouts
- 14 Catching forty winks
- 21 Orderly
- 25 TV's " __ Life to Live"
- 26 Satchel's feature
- 27 Rib
- 28 Of the kidneys
- 29 Bursitis symptoms
- 30 Ascend
- 31 "Sesame Street" fellow

DOWN

- 1 Coffee cup
- 2 Chimps & gorillas
- 3 Memo
- 4 Assert without proof

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MAD	AUDIS	ECHO
NINE	BRUNT	NOON
BATS	BASKET	CASE
CSI	FELTS	ROLES
CROSS PAR		
ODIOUS	NICEST	
NEPAL	STICK	HIP
CLAD	SPECK	POLO
EAT	DEREK	SLEEK
YEARLY	MOUSSE	
VAL HEIST		
SPOOF	SHALL	RPM
CAPITALIST	LIAR	
APED	FORTE	INNS
MANS	TWEED	EGG

©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved. 2/16/19

- 39 Grove
- 41 King topper
- 42 Exam
- 44 Loafers
- 45 Itchy red patches
- 47 Not forbidden
- 48 Farm machine
- 49 As luck would __ it...
- 50 Like petits fours
- 52 Look for
- 53 New Delhi garb
- 54 Person, place or thing
- 55 __ away; subtract
- 59 Dawn grass moisture

Baby pudu named for Korean pop star debuts at LA Zoo

By AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fans of a Korean pop star have raised more than \$2,000 to name a baby deer at the Los Angeles Zoo after their favorite doe-eyed singer. The zoo's new baby pudu was named Haechan after a member of K-pop group NCT and its two subgroups, NCT 127 and NCT Dream. The southern pudu made its media debut Thursday, though he has previously been on public display after he was born Dec. 19. Donors typically name animals born at the zoo. But after tweeting about the newborn pudu, the zoo realized Haechan's fans had long thought the 18-year-old looked like the tiny deer that's native to South America. "It was immediate," said Katherine Spada, the zoo's

social media manager. "People started saying, 'You've got to name the pudu Haechan. He looks just like Haechan.'" Spada said the zoo had no idea who Haechan or NCT was but started researching. "We don't really know how the nickname started except that Haechan's cute and pudus are cute," she said. Taking inspiration from a Tumblr dedicated to the similarities between the singer and the fawn, the zoo then posted images of the pudu next to photos of Haechan, including two in which both human and animal similarly have one of their limbs raised, the deer its hind leg and the teen star his arm in a dance move on stage. "We hope the fame doesn't go to his head," Spada said. □

COMPUTER LESSONS
 Beginners-Advanced
 Am-Pm
 Private or group
 www.DataTechAruba.com-
 Tel.593 4494 - 588 0950

LANGUAGE COURSES
 Since 1993
 •English
 •Dutch
 •Papiamentu
 •Spanish
 Tel.593 4494 - 588 0950

FOR SALE BY OWNER
 1 Bedroom, pool & ocean view
 Paradise Beach Villas
 week 6
 Contact:757 681 2505

Tropicana Eagle Beach Resort
 wk 5,6 /3 Br, 2 Bth F Reno, S
 Twr 1st flr, F kit, W+D, 44,000
 commodoremtrs@icloud.com

TcDAY BONDIA
How to reach us!
 Downtown

Classifieds

For Sale By Owner:
Casa del Mar
 2 Bedroom/2 Bath
 Wk 1/Unit 1408 (15,000)
 Wk 2/1113 - (\$16,000)
 Wks 5 & 6/1315 (\$18,000/wk)
 Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)
 Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)
 Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
 Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
 Wk 8/1409 (\$17,000)
 CDMOwner@gmail.com
 U.S. (860) 649-9639

Tropicana Aruba Resort and Casino
 For Sale or Rent by Owner
 week 7 one Bed Unit #1532F
 Fri/Fri \$3,900
 Week 13 Two Bed Unit #4552H
 Fri/Fri \$4,900
 Contact in Aruba
 donjovi7@hotmail.com
 or cell 592 0500
 In US sales.cpv@hotmail.com
 or cell 978 530 6077



Marriott Aruba Surf Club
GOLD Season
 2B Oceanfront \$14k
 2B Oceanside \$8500
 GV \$6k OV \$7k
 3BEDRM \$12500
PLATINUM Season
 2B Oceanfront \$27k
 Oceanside \$16k
 Oceanview \$15k
 3BEDROM \$26k
 *WK. 51 OV \$39k
 *WK 52 OV \$46k
 * Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club
GOLD Season
 2B Oceanfront \$14k
 2B OV \$8000
 1 Bed \$4000
 1 Bed Oceanfront \$8500
PLATINUM Season
 2 Bed OV \$16000
 2B Oceanfront \$24k
 1B OV \$10k
 ** Destination points \$9 per point

La Cabana Beach Resort
 Weeks 30-33 Unit 322BC and
 Unit 412BC Plus more.

We Need Sellers!!!
 Costa Linda & Playa Linda
 & All Divi Weeks
We are the #1 Rental Timeshare agent for Aruba!
 We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

Contact:
 julie@conciergerealty.com
888-888-2204 Ext 111
 Website:
 www.conciergerealty.com

Editor
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
 Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
 Richard Brooks
 Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales
 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 Rachelle Danje
 (rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Cristian Soto Garcia
 Pilar Flores
 Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists
 Anthony Croes
 Joris Zantvoort
 Louedska Maduro
 Shanella Pantophlet
 Steve Francees
 Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @arubatoday

HEALTH
 Hospital
 527 4000
 Imsan- San Nicolas
 524 8833

DOCTOR ON DUTY
Oranjestad
 Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
San Nicolas
 IMSAN 24 Hours

PHARMACY ON DUTY
Oranjestad:
 Eagle Tel. 587 9011
San Nicolas:
 San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER
 Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Urgent Care 586 0448

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES

February 17
 Freewinds
 February 18
 Carnival Sunshine

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
 Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
 Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
 Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
 Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info
 Phone Directory Tel. 118

Chemicals contaminating U.S. water supplies focus of EPA plan

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MICHAEL CASEY and JOHN FLESHER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chemical compounds are all around you. They're on many fabrics, rugs and carpets, cooking pots and pans, outdoor gear, shampoo, shaving cream, makeup and even dental floss. Increasing numbers of states have found them seeping into water supplies. There's growing evidence that long-term exposure to the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl compounds, or PFAS, can be dangerous, even in tiny amounts.

The Environmental Protection Agency released a plan Thursday that includes moving toward setting a maximum level for PFAS in drinking water nationwide. At hearings around the country last year, local and state officials said such an action would be needed to stop contamination and hold polluting parties responsible.

But environmentalists, Democratic members of Congress and state officials said the agency wasn't moving quickly enough to address the issue.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Industries use the chemicals in coatings meant to protect consumer goods from stains, water and corrosion.

DuPont says its scientists invented the earliest form of the nonstick compound in 1938. They were impressed with how water and grease slipped off the new substance and how it seemed never to break down — winning it the name "forever compound." Various types soon were on the market, first in Teflon products. Thousands of variants have been produced since



In this May 16, 2018 file photo the Rogue River flows underneath Algoma Ave. NE in Algoma Township, Mich.

then, for a host of uses.

By the 1970s, manufacturers conceded that PFAS were building up in the bodies of employees who worked with them. Recent scientific reports have estimated that nearly all people in the U.S. have some PFAS chemicals in their blood. Studies of workers exposed on the job and people who drank contaminated water, in addition to lab analyses of animals, have pointed to ties between some PFAS types and human illness. Industries have phased out two of the most-studied versions of PFAS. Manufacturers say newer forms are safer and don't remain in the human body as long as older types. Some researchers say too little is known about them to be sure of that.

WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SAY?

DuPont agreed to a court-supervised public health study after a farmer in

Parkersburg, West Virginia, brought a lawsuit blaming runoff from a PFAS facility for the deaths of his cattle. The 2005-2013 study monitored and tested nearly 70,000 people who had been drinking water tainted with PFOA, one of the two kinds of PFAS since phased out of production. The study found "probable links" between high levels of PFOA in the body and excessive cholesterol levels, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, testicular and kidney cancer, and problems in pregnancies. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said last year that medical studies pointed to "associations" between the industrial compounds and those ailments, and also to liver problems, low birth weight and other health issues.

The federal toxicology report also says EPA's "advisory level" of 70 parts per trillion of PFOA and PFOS — the two older, phased-out versions — in drinking water is too weak. Before the report was released, a White House email disclosed by Politico called it a "potential public relations nightmare."

HOW WIDESPREAD IS EXPOSURE?

EPA-mandated testing of about 5,000 of the roughly 150,000 public water systems in the U.S. that was completed in 2016 found dangerous levels of the same two PFAS compounds in 66 systems. Local and state testing since then has identified high levels in scores of additional systems. Contaminated materials are disposed of in landfills and sewage treatment systems. Firefighting foams are sprayed on the ground. The chemicals seep into soil, waterways, sediments and groundwater; some are incinerated, generating air pollution.

Many states aren't waiting for the EPA, particularly regarding groundwater and, more recently, drinking water.

New Jersey and Vermont are among those that have set standards more stringent than the EPA's; New Hampshire may join them. New York is considering the toughest standard yet. In December, a state drinking water commission recommended a maximum limit of 10 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS. That follows revelations of widespread PFAS contamination in several communities. Other states are trying to determine the extent of the contamination, accord-

ing to the National Conferences of State Legislatures. North Carolina lawmakers approved money for monitoring and treatment. Washington state's health department plans to test hundreds of water systems for any trace of the chemicals.

Legislation in other states has proposed things such as banning use of PFAS in food packaging and prohibiting its use in firefighting foam.

Dozens of military installations have been affected. Tests found drinking water contamination exceeding the EPA's health advisory for a lifetime of exposure for two PFAS compounds, PFOS and PFOA.

WHAT ABOUT WILDLIFE?

Unsurprisingly, the chemicals have turned up in a variety of wildlife species, including fish, bald eagles and mink.

Michigan agencies plan to sample a variety of wild game, such as ducks and other waterfowl, for the chemicals. They already test fish and deer. The state issued a "do not eat" advisory last October for deer taken near a marsh polluted with PFAS — probably from a former Air Force base — after one of the animals registered 5,000 parts per trillion in its body.

Michigan, Minnesota and New Jersey include PFAS chemicals in fish advisories, warning people to limit consumption of such popular game species as bass, walleye and brook trout.

"If it's affecting human beings, it will be affecting wildlife as well," said Cheryl Murphy, a Michigan State University biologist.

The harm to wildlife is unclear, partly because PFAS chemicals don't necessarily accumulate in animals the way other chemicals do, she said. Older, larger fish have higher levels of mercury and PCBs because those contaminants are passed up food chains, from smaller species to bigger ones. But high levels of PFAS are being found in medium-sized fish such as bluegill. □

'Small Island' author Andrea Levy dies of cancer aged 62

By DANICA KIRKA
JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Andrea Levy, a prize-winning novelist who chronicled the hopes and horrors experienced by the post-World War II generation of Jamaican immigrants in Britain, has died. She was 62, and had suffered from cancer. One of the first black British authors to achieve both critical and commercial success, Levy was best known for her novel "Small Island," which tells the story of two couples, one English and one Jamaican, whose lives intertwine in London after World War II.

The saga of war and racism won several major literary prizes: the Orange Prize for women's fiction, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Whitbread Book of the Year award.

Georgina Moore of Tinder Press said Levy died Thursday after having been "ill for some time."

Levy, who grew up in public housing in a working-class north London neighborhood, started writing fiction in her 30s when she enrolled in a creative writ-



In this Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005 file photo, British author Andrea Levy at home in north London. Associated Press

ing course in London. Her first books "Every Light in the House Burnin,'" "Never Far From Nowhere" and "Fruit of the Lemon" — drew on her background as the child of Jamaican immigrants growing up in London.

Though critically praised, they failed to win a mass audience. That changed with "Small Island," which made Levy one of Britain's hottest writers — discussed in book clubs and read by droves of subway commut-

ers.

Her most recent novel, "The Long Song," tells the story of a house slave in 19th-century Jamaica and was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. She also published "Six Stories and an Essay," in 2014, a series of short stories and a piece about her Caribbean heritage.

"Small Island" and "The Long Song" were adapted for TV, and a stage version of "Small Island" is opening at the National Theatre this

spring.

"When I started out, I was seen as a sort of marginal voice — the attitude was that only black people would read the books," Levy told The Associated Press in 2005. "It was very hard, because I was writing something a little bit different, in that I was just writing about family, small stories. At that time, the prevailing trend was more sort of guns and drugs and stuff, and so they didn't quite know

what to do with me. They didn't think there'd be a market for it."

But "Small Island" became a classic word-of-mouth success, helped by warm reviews on Internet discussion groups.

It focused on people like her parents — the post-war "Windrush generation," named for SS Empire Windrush, a former troop ship that sailed from Jamaica to England in 1948 carrying hundreds of West Indian migrants.

The immigrants, many of whom fought against the Nazis in World War II, often found themselves to be unwelcome in Britain. Two characters from the book, Gilbert and Hortense, are shocked by the racism they encounter, and by the realization that the "Mother Country" is a shabby dark nation recovering from war.

"I don't really believe in baddies and goodies," Levy said. "I don't believe in good and evil. I think we all have the capacity for both, every one of us, depending on circumstances. I like to bring that out in characters." □

Memoir of Northern Appalachia tackles regional myths

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — "Appalachia North: A Memoir" (West Virginia University Press), by Matthew Ferrence.

Since the 2016 election of President Donald Trump and the publication of J. D. Vance's memoir "Hillbilly Elegy" that same year, Appalachia has returned to the national spotlight as media and academia struggle to make sense of the region and its people. Who are the residents of an area that stretches from northern Alabama and Georgia, through Kentucky and West Virginia, all the way to southern New York? Matthew Ferrence joins the debate with his new book, "Appalachia North: A Memoir," but he's here to clear up a few things: Pennsylvania is part of Ap-

palachia and the area is more than its stereotypes. In fact, to understand Appalachia, one must look at its history, its contradictions and repeated attempts to redefine itself.

Using his personal story, Ferrence takes us into a world defined by its bodies of water, its hills and its defunct coal mining industry. The closed mines have polluted creeks and destroyed the economies of numerous communities.

Squatters and long-time residents remain in dilapidated homes others would have given up on. "But either because they can't or because they refuse to leave, people tack new layers of tarpaper to the siding, or they duct-tape the broken windows, or slide concrete blocks under the worst sags, and

stay," Ferrence writes. Such realities aren't signs of a culture in crisis, according to Ferrence, but examples of perseverance amid a changing economy.

Yet, it's also a place of plateaus older than the American Southwest desert. It's a place of animals and solitude that helped Ferrence fight a brain tumor. Whenever he has lived in places like Arizona or Paris, Ferrence realized he was in exile, even though he never thought of himself as from Appalachia growing up. No, Ferrence didn't grow up smoking a corn-cob pipe or hearing stories of moonshining. But that's not all that defines Appalachia.

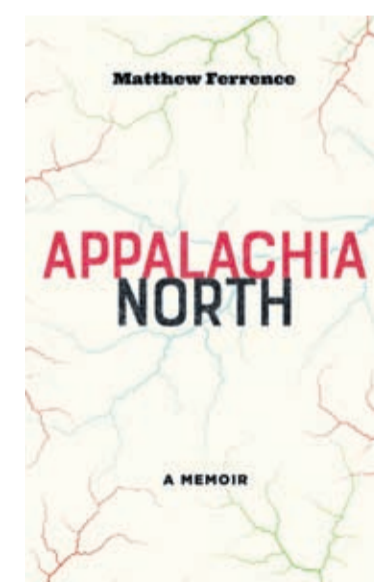
An English professor at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, Ferrence doesn't shy away

from his middle-class upbringing that sheltered him from poverty and family dysfunction Vance cited in his memoir. Ferrence's father was a biologist and his mother was a well-read private-school trained woman from Indiana.

Still, Ferrence refuses to pass judgment as others have on the struggle of Appalachia residents and appears to be in awe of how residents carry their struggles. To him, those struggles have also defined him.

"If I am writing through the recognition of myself as an Appalachian and also through the process of seeing myself as an Appalachian writer, I have to think about journeys," he writes.

"Appalachia North" is a lyrical homage to a region often misunderstood and overlooked. Ferrence's en-



This cover image released by West Virginia University Press shows "Appalachia North," a memoir by Matthew Ferrence. Associated Press

gulfing prose brings to life an Appalachia north of the Mason-Dixon line and he does it with the eye of an honest poet. □

Learning to love the rom-com in 'Isn't It Romantic'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Even when done well, the romantic comedy is easy to pick on. They're so earnest and full of clichés and unrealistic fairy tale standards. Intelligent women have been taught that there should be a healthy serving of self-hatred with whatever enjoyment you might glean from a well-done makeover montage. You don't have to look much further than the phrase "rom-com" (like chick-lit) to know that. The dismissive term seems to have been thrown at the genre to take it and its fans down a few pegs, as if to say, no no, silly girl, that's not cinema or literature or even art.

This is the world we and Natalie, the heroine at the heart of "Isn't It Romantic," live in, where these addictively appealing and occasionally great films come our way that we have to relegate to guilty pleasures or couch with disclaimers. And it can get rather exhausting that the justification always has to come back to a comparison to



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Rebel Wilson, left, and Liam Hemsworth in a scene from "Isn't It Romantic."

Nora Ephron, the only purveyor of rom-coms who has undeniable crossover film snob appeal.

And that's kind of the premise of "Isn't It Romantic" in which a rom-com hating woman played by Rebel Wilson bonks her head and ends up in one herself. It's written by Katie Silberman (who wrote the great "Set

It Up"), Erin Cardillo and rom-com veteran Dana Fox ("The Wedding Date," "What Happens in Vegas") and directed by Todd Strauss-Schulson.

Natalie is introduced as a young girl glued to the television in a run-down apartment where her mother is off to the side making an ice cream and boxed

wine float. On the screen is a young Julia Roberts in a bubble bath in "Pretty Woman." Natalie's mother tells her not to expect anything like that out of life. They don't and never will look like Roberts and so the fairy tale is out of the question. Pretty harsh, but her mom is right, "Pretty Woman," unlike so many great

romantic comedies, is actually evil.

Cut to adulthood and Natalie is a normal, messy adult. Her apartment is small and dirty. Her hair is a little frizzy. Her clothes are ill-fitting. Her co-workers at the very ordinary looking architecture firm where she works treat her like an assistant and she can't seem to see that her friend with the 90s Jim Carrey haircut, Josh (Adam Devine), is in love with her.

Much like Amy Schumer's underappreciated and thematically similar "I Feel Pretty," it takes a traumatic head injury for her to wake up in rom-com land, where Manhattan smells like lavender, cupcake and wedding shops adorn her city street, her apartment is palatial and clean and looks like a magazine spread, a handsome billionaire named Blake (a wonderfully goofy Liam Hemsworth) wants to date her and everyone is very, very nice (except her best friend at work, Whitney, played by Betty Gilpin, who has turned into a rival). □

500 Caribbean Cinemas. MEGAPLEX 8 The only theater in Aruba with all stadium seating! caribbeancinemas.com Caribbean Cinemas Aruba	
FEBRUARY 14 - 20 CARMEN The Metropolitan Opera SATURDAY, FEB 16 AT 1:00PM ROSA SALAZAR CHRISTOPH WALTZ	
NEW THIS WEEK! 	ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON/THU 5:15 7:50 FRI 5:15 7:50 10:25 SAT 2:40 5:15 7:50 10:25 SUN 2:40 5:15 7:50 CXC
	MON/THU 4:00 6:35 9:10 FRI 4:00 6:35 9:10 11:45 SAT 1:25 4:00 6:35 9:10 11:45 SUN 1:25 4:00 6:35 9:10 VIP PG-13
	HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON/THU & SUN 5:05 7:20 9:35 FRI/SAT 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:50 PG-13
	JESSICA ROTHE RUBY MODINE MON/THU & SUN 4:25 6:55 9:25 FRI 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SAT 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SUN 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25 VIP R
	COLD PURSUIT MON/THU & SUN 6:50 9:20 • FRI/SAT 6:50 9:20 11:50 R
	LIAM NEESON LAURA DERN MON/THU & SUN 8:40 11:10 FRI 8:40 11:10 SAT 8:40 11:10 VIP PG-13
	WHAT MEN WANT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON/THU & SUN 8:40 11:10 FRI 8:40 11:10 SAT 8:40 11:10 VIP PG-13
	TARAJI P. HENSON WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY MON/THU & SUN 4:25 6:55 9:25 FRI 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SAT 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SUN 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25 VIP R
	MISS BALA MON/SUN 4:00 9:15 PG-13
	BRYAN CRANSTON KEVIN HART MON/THU 4:35 SAT/SUN 1:45 6:35 PG-13
	BON BINI HOLLAND 2 DUTCH MON/THU 5:20 7:25 9:30 FRI 5:20 7:25 9:30 11:35 SAT 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30 11:35 SUN 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30 PG-13
	LOUIS ASHBOURNE SERKIS PATRICK STEWART MON/THU 1:20 3:50 PG
OPENING FEBRUARY 21: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3, RHYTHM SECTION	
Palm Beach Plaza Aruba 586.0074 THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE	

Spielberg, Gaga, sign get-well card for Ruth Bader Ginsburg



In this Dec. 15, 2018 file photo, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg appears at an event organized by the Museum of the City of New York with WNET-TV held at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York.

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steven Spielberg, Lady Gaga, Spike Lee and Glenn Close have a message for Su-

preme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Get well soon. They and three dozen Hollywood A-listers, from Bradley Cooper to Quincy

Jones, have signed a card that's being overnighted to Ginsburg on Thursday. The 85-year-old Ginsburg has missed a month of Supreme Court arguments as she recovers from the lung cancer surgery she had in December.

In the card, Lee refers to Ginsburg as the "Judge of Brooklyn." Regina King wrote that she is the true, "Super Diva" in reference to a shirt Ginsburg wears in the documentary "RBG." Laura Dern wrote, "You are our grand reminder to use voice + fight for truth."

Director Barry Jenkins even stopped to do a plank in honor of Ginsburg's famed workouts after signing.

Other signatories include Amy Adams, Ron Howard, Ted Danson, Helen Mirren, Stephen Colbert and Meredith Vieira. □

Regina is already a King, but what about president?

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — So, Regina King walked into a 99-cent store. And what'd she get? A prophecy on her life.

No joke. King was shopping around — "sometimes people will say, 'You at the 99-cent store?' I like a bargain too" — when a woman walked up to her with something of a prediction.

"She said, 'You don't know it but you're going to run for president.' And I was like, 'President of a company?' She was like, 'No... of the United States,'" King recalled, adding that she thought the woman was a clairvoyant.

"She said, 'Close your eyes. You are. I see it,'" King continued. "I was like, 'Girl, I appreciate that but no—that's not happening. I like my life too much. I like my family too much. I like my friends too much.'"

The idea of King, 48, running for presidency isn't too far-fetched. Rather, it's not a stretch for people to jokingly ask her to: The seasoned actress is one of the most likable and genial celebrities in the industry, and one fans and peers are constantly rooting for. Remember Taraji P. Henson happily screaming at the top of her lungs when King won her first Emmy in 2015? King has picked up two more Emmys since — earning acclaim and praise for her riveting roles in John Ridley's anthology "American Crime" and Netflix's "Seven Seconds," where King stunned on-screen as the mother of a son killed by police.

Now King is hitting new heights with her first big screen role since 2010: Her portrayal of a devoted mother in Barry Jenkins' "If Beale Street Could Talk" already won her honors at the Golden Globes and the Critics' Choice Awards. She's up for best supporting actress at the Academy Awards, pitting her against Oscar winners Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz; Amy Adams, a six-time Oscar nominee; and first-time Marina de Tavira, who co-starred



This Feb. 13, 2019 photo shows actress Regina King, nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in "If Beale Street Could Talk," posing for a portrait at Sofitel in New York.

Associated Press

in "Roma."

"(Regina) has been stalwart in this industry for so long. For a long time, she was doing the work to do the work and I think the industry sort of catches up to wonderful artists like Regina. She shows up and does the work, whether it be in front or behind the camera, and the industry is taking notice," said Colman Domingo, who plays King's husband in "Beale Street." "I think it's not only an Oscar nomination for 'If Beale Street Could Talk,' I think it's also for her body of work." King called the nomination "extra-special" since it's her first; the film also is also competing for best adapted screenplay and best original score at the Oscars on Feb. 24.

King has shined on-screen since she appeared on NBC's "227" in 1985. Her

credits include films like "Jerry Maguire," "Friday," "Ray," "Boyz n the Hood," "Enemy of the State" and "Miss Congeniality 2."

But King traded movie roles for TV ones so she could easily raise her son — her regular date at awards show — in Los Angeles: "I wasn't interested in homeschooling my son."

"I had the conversation with my team," she said, "and they felt like TV was going to be the best space for me to live in."

She landed a starring role in TNT's "Southland" in 2009, playing Detective Lydia Adams — a part originally not written for a black woman.

"Everyone at the agency had been put on notice, 'Do not treat Regina King like a black actor. She is an actor,'" King said. "I hadn't even quite seen it that way,

but that's what they felt. It kind of started with 'Legally Blonde 2.' That was the reach out, like, 'You know what, why don't you guys consider Regina King?'"

More TV roles came to her, including "The Big Bang Theory," "Shameless," "American Crime," "The Leftovers" and "Seven Seconds" — all while film stars turned to TV and found success, from Nicole Kidman to Matthew McConaughey to Viola Davis. Even Meryl Streep is heading to the so-called "small screen."

"I think of myself as a trailblazer for film actors going to television," King said.

But no matter the screen, King always comes through. She's known for digging deep into her roles, giving a dramatic, stirring performance that leaves audiences wanting more.

"I'm doing my research. I'm

talking to real life people who've had these horrific experiences," King said.

One of the real people was Marion Gray-Hopkins, whose son was killed by police officers. King spoke extensively with Gray-Hopkins as she prepped for "Seven Seconds," which also earned her a Golden Globe nomination.

While King is usually able to leave the drama on the set, she said it was hard to escape the madness of the TV series.

"I called my son so much (for) just like random things. He couldn't watch all of 'Seven Seconds.' He saw the first episode, and he tried to watch the second. He was like, 'I can't.' He said, 'It feels like that's me,'" King said. "And he was like, 'Now I get why you were calling me with just like weird stuff, like, 'Did you remember to put the clothes in the dryer? I'm like, yeah mom. I put the cleaning towels in the dryer. Did you feed the dog?' I just wanted to hear his voice."

King's son, Ian Alexander Jr., will be by her side at the Academy Awards on Feb. 24 to cheer her on — just like so many others.

"I feel the love," she said. "I can just be anywhere, from the grocery store to wherever. Sometimes, it'll be the sweetest thing, I'll get a woman that's just like 70, 80-years-old say, 'Just thank you. Thank you for just representing us.'"

"I'm just living my life and trying to remain a good person and give what I get and remain open so that what I get is good, so that's what I can put back out. But you're not thinking about how your walk always effects people that you don't know," she added.

But still, she's not running for president.

"When you make the choice to be in the public's eye, you are letting go of anonymity. You're letting go of some things that you want to hold dear and protect. ... For a president, that's on level 9 million," she said. "I am all here for sacrifices, but not that one."q



Elegance is an attitude

Kate Winslet
Kate Winslet

LONGINES®



DI DIAMONDS®
INTERNATIONAL

L.G. Smith Blvd. 17
Downtown, Oranjestad
Tel: (297) 588-0443 * 1-800-515-3935
www.DiamondsInternational.com



Longines DolceVita